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Hafa Adai!

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CHCC: Clinics may close

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is starting to feel the pressure as the CW-1 issue creeps up on it. The corporation, which runs the CNMI's lone public hospital, expects to lose more than half of its nurses come December 2017.

If worse comes to worst, the Commonwealth Health Center may have to close down some clinics to make up for the lack of manpower, according to CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña.

"If we don't have any solutions [to the lack of manpower], then it is a possibility that we would have

See CHCC on Page 4

Saipan's FHP Clinic, pharmacy to close

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

TakeCare Insurance Co. Inc. has advised its clients that they would close down the FHP Clinic and pharmacy on Saipan but assured all who are under their health plan that service coverage won't be interrupted.

TakeCare, in a letter to its clients, said they decided to close the clinic even though recent studies showed that the provider network in the CNMI is improving. It is not

See FHP on Page 4

Castro denies misuse of govt car

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» DOC official admits playing golf with brother

Corrections Director Gregory Castro has denied misusing a government vehicle, saying he was doing official business at the Marianas Country Club last week when he was issued a citation for misuse of a government vehicle.

"I did not do anything wrong. I was just doing my job," Castro said, adding that the incident happened during work hours.

Castro admits that he played golf with his brother but he said they also discussed the possibility to having the Kagman

See CASTRO on Page 4

CNMI OSHA has no jurisdiction on IPI incident

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The CNMI Occupational Safety and Health Administration had no authority to investigate or impose fines on possible violations of employers in a workplace. CNMI OSHA On-Site Consultation Division project manager Mariana Coates made the clarification yesterday in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

Coates made the statement after they received criticisms for failing to act on possible violations commit-

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CONSULAR OUTREACH
Filipinos nationals await their turn to avail of consular services from the Philippine Consulate General at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

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A 6,800-ton South Korean ferry emerges from the water.
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WORLD
A knife-wielding man went on a deadly rampage in the heart of Britain.
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LIFE & STYLE
Imperial Pacific's Corporate Learning and Development trains its people.
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Local

Hocog asks court again to dismiss Yamamoto lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Asserting that he was immune from lawsuits as his actions then were made when he was still a senator, Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog filed again a motion to dismiss Japanese investor Takahisa Yamamoto's court action against him and the owners of cargo ship M/V *Luta*.

Hocog, through counsel F. Randall Cunliffe, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to dismiss Yamamoto's complaint against him for failure to comply with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Citing previous court rulings, Cunliffe said legislation immunity extends beyond just speech and debate; it has been interpreted to extend to actions taken by legislatures in the course of the legislative process.

Once it is established that Hocog's action took place within the legislative sphere, it bars a criminal or civil suit, whether it is brought against the legislator in his official and/or his personal capacity, since legislative immunity is absolute immunity.

Cunliffe pointed out that the U.S. District Court for the NMI had found that of M/V *Luta* was a joint venture between Yamamoto and other defendants besides Hocog.

That effectively eradicates Yamamoto's arguments that he was to be a secured creditor and had a cause of action for breach of contract, said Cunliffe.

On that basis alone, Cunliffe argued, the court should dismiss Yamamoto's breach of contract claim against Hocog.

Last March 8, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood denied Hocog's motion to dismiss Yamamoto's lawsuit.

Last Dec. 1, Yamamoto, through counsel George Lloyd Hasselback, filed a complaint that named Hocog, who as then-Rota senator, allegedly promised to use his political position and influence to ensure that his (Yamamoto) investment in the M/V *Luta* was returned with profit.

Yamamoto's amended complaint has the same set of defendants and claims—breach of contract, fraud, and unjust enrichment.

Yamamoto is suing Hocog and the ship's owners for allegedly refusing to pay back the $3.4 million that he funded for the vessel.

NMTI: We are not for profit

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute's tax exempt-status has been revoked since 2013, a finding that was questioned in yesterday's Senate Education Committee public hearing.

A public document from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service stated that NMTI had its tax exemption revoked back in May 15, 2013, due to its failure to file a form 990-series return or notice for three consecutive years.

When asked about the issue, NMTI chief executive officer Agnes McPhetres told *Saipan Tribune* the issue was present even before McPhetres joined NMTI.

"Unfortunately, [NMTI founder] Tony Pellegrino [nor the NMTI accountant(s) at the time] probably did not know of those things. Once I got in, I reviewed all the records and rectified whatever needed to be rectified to clean things up," said McPhetres.

McPhetres reiterated in a letter to Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) that NMTI losing its IRS tax exemption was unintentional.

"There was in no way any intent to evade filing with the IRS. NMTI's filing locally was mistakenly thought to be adequate in satisfying the needs of the exempt organization's annual tax return," wrote McPhetres in the letter dated March 13, 2017.

McPhetres told *Saipan Tribune* that the revocation "was not because of the misuse of funds [but] was because of the failure to file a form 990."

She stressed that NMTI has been receiving clean audits for the last three years and has been receiving a certificate from the CNMI Department of Finance signifying that NMTI is compliant with local law.

"We have been getting certification every year from our local [taxation and revenue

See NMTI on Next Page

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OSHA

From Page 1

ted by the subcontractors of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC at the construction site of the multi-million dollar Imperial Pacific Resort in Garapan.

A Chinese national plummeted to his death on Wednesday after falling 24 feet from a scaffold. Last week, a trash fire hit the construction site. A photo posted on a social media site also showed a huge pile of debris at the construction site.

Coates said that investigations and imposing fines is the job of the federal OSHA office in Region 9. The CNMI is one of the states and territories under its jurisdiction.

The states of Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada, and the territories of American Samoa and Guam compose the Region 9 office that is located in San Francisco.

"People in our community need to know that it is the compliance officers and the enforcement office that conduct inspections for any work-related injury that either needs hospitalization or not," said Coates.

"We have no jurisdiction on this issue, it is not like that. We just basically provide technical assistance and do onsite consultations to employers. CNMI OSHA is separate from enforcement and we don't issue citations or impose penalties."

The federal OSHA is one of the umbrella agencies of the U.S. Department of Labor, while CNMI OSHA, although it also receives federal funding, is a division under the local Department of Labor.

According to the local labor department's website, CNMI OSHA is a U.S. Labor cooperative program for small businesses that offers free and confidential on-site safety advice. They also give health advice to small- and medium-sized businesses and is committed to improving workplace safety and health of employees.

Formal oversight

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) has requested House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) to form an oversight in order for IPI and its subcontractors answer questions regarding the incident.

Propst, in the letter, said accidents should not happen if safety is practiced. "With all due respect, there are no accidents when it comes to negligence in the workplace, most especially at a construction site."

"While the Department of Public Safety is investigating and treating this as an accidental death, there are many questions that need to be answered," added Propst, who listed 10 questions that nees to be addressed: Was the worker wearing a safety harness? If not, why not? Could this death have been prevented if the worker was wearing a safety harness? Was this death caused by negligence at the construction site? Was 911 called as soon as he fell and did the company wait for the medics to arrive on scene to treat him?

Was the worker moved and placed on a plywood form and transferred to the hospital in a van? Are there any safety officers on site? If so, is it normal protocol to move someone after they have fallen? Is this the first death to occur at the construction site? If there are other deaths, why have they not ever been reported? How many severe injuries have occurred at this construction site? How many have been reported? How many have been permanently paralyzed due to falls? How many workers are trained in administering first-aid and CPR at the construction site? Is there medical equipment and supplies readily available, and is someone trained to treat someone who gets seriously injured on site?

Saipan Tribune also reported yesterday an increase in work-related injuries since 2015, based on documents obtained from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. The report noted a 370-percent increase from 2015 to 2017.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CASTRO

From Page 1

Community Health Center as an alternative healthcare provider for inmates.

Castro said that most successful businessmen do great business at golf courses.

The Office of the Public Auditor allegedly caught Castro using a Corrections vehicle to go to the Marianas Country Club last week, Wednesday, in the morning and play golf. He was given a citation ticket.

Sources said OPA impounded the unmarked vehicle and cited Castro for misuse of a government vehicle. OPA allegedly conducted the surveillance after the 58-year-old Castro was seen using the DOC car assigned to him whenever he played golf at the same golf course.

According to court documents, it was police detective Pete Aldan, now assigned at OPA, who issued the citation at 10:11am at the Marianas Country Club golf course. The vehicle is a Nissan Xtera with license plate ACR-284.

In an interview yesterday, the director admitted that he played golf with his brother, Vince Castro, who is the chief executive officer of Kagman Community Health Center, last week, Wednesday, in the morning.

Castro said he and his brother talked about having the Kagman Community Health Center as an alternative healthcare provider because of the situation of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

He noted that CHCC is the primary healthcare provider for inmates, but the hospital is struggling due to financial constraints and effects of the CW-1 crisis.

Castro said he recently met with CHCC executive director Esther Muña, who informed him about CHCC's struggles that would eventually affect the quality healthcare it provides inmates.

He said that was why he met with his brother at the golf course.

Castro pointed out that when he was issued the citation, nobody asked him about his purpose at the golf course.

Castro also questioned OPA's authority to issue traffic tickets since their investigator was using unmarked cars and was in plain clothes.

"I was erroneously cited," he said.

He noted that NMI Administrative Code Title 57 states that the correctional officers are also sworn officers and have all of the authority of police officers to enforce the law.

Castro said how could he be wrong when he was "working on a mission" that was authorized by acting DOC commissioner Lino Tenorio

The director said he is hoping that the Office of the Attorney General and OPA see that he was at the golf resort legitimately so it will save the government resources in prosecuting the case.

"I was working. And I am happy to report that Kagman Health Center is ready to assist DOC because of that meeting," he stressed.

Instead of bringing inmates for medical services to CHC's emergency room, they will be taken to Kagman Health Center.

He said CHC will able to tend more to the public, thereby reducing traffic at the hospital's emergency section.

He said Kagman Health Center has doctors that can see inmates for regular checkups.

CHCC

From Page 1

to close a few of the clinics," Muña told *Saipan Tribune.*

If that happens, only the emergency and non-acute area of the hospital will remain operational, Muña said. That includes the emergency room, the dialysis center, the operating room, the hospital wards, and the ER office, to name a few.

Clinics that would likely close temporarily include the women's clinic, children's clinic, adult clinic, and quite possibly the program clinics such as the immunization clinics, Muña said.

Expensive solution

A possible solution that CHCC is looking at to avert closing down the clinics is to avail of nurse staffing agencies.

Nurse staffing agencies are like manpower agencies but they focus solely on providing nursing manpower, or "travelling nurses."

"Travelling nurses" are nurses that belong to larger organizations that provide manpower to hospitals at a cost.

"Those are just some of the options but they are more expensive," said Muña.

As a temporary solution to the CW crisis, CHCC would be paying the nurse-staffing agency to provide nurses that are ready to work. Muña stressed that that solution is temporary.

"[The nurses] are not here to move and take over the jobs [of those that had to exit the CNMI]," said Muña. "We are already making communication with someone to try and provide these services. There is actually some interest to come to Saipan."

'Worsens the situation'

Future dependence on nursing staff agencies are costly. Muña said that availing of these services "actually worsens" the financial situation of CHCC.

Muña pointed out that CHCC relies on a reimbursement method of payment, meaning that CHCC first pays for the services it offers to patients.

"If [CHCC] uses an expensive resource pool, we cannot just increase our rate for the sake of covering that expense," said Muña. "When you determine your rate for fees, it is based on your costs."

Without additional appropriations from the central government, Muña does not see the nurse staff agencies as a permanent solution to the manpower problems of CHCC.

"If we don't have the funding, then the likelihood is that we have to increase our rates to pay for these services. That's the option, basically," she said.

A common problem with manpower agencies of any type is the availability of people.

"If you are contacting somebody for their services, [it ultimately depends] on the availability [of the nurse]. Again, [CHCC] is not the only one tapping into this kind of business," said Muña.

In official CHCC documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune,* 182 employees are scheduled to exit the CNMI, five of which are H-1B employees.

Of the 171 set to exit, 125 are nurses, with three from the Rota Health Center and five from the Tinian Health Center. The total population of nurses is 137, including those at the Rota and Tinian health centers.

According to Muña, top priority goes to taking care of CHCC staff because "it is directly in line with patient care."

FHP

From Page 1

stated whether the study is for the entire healthcare provider industry in the CNMI or for TakeCare only.

The FHP Clinic will be in operation until April 30.

"The patient access study supports this decision and further ensures the available network of independent clinics and providers in the CNMI are more than adequate to service the healthcare needs of TakeCare's members in the CNMI," states the letter.

TakeCare said the decision to close the Saipan clinic would allow them to be more focused in being the leading health insurance provider in the CNMI through health plan products and services.

"TakeCare's comprehensive CNMI network of providers and facilities, along with extensive off-island network providers in Asia and the Pacific, combined with its leadership in wellness and quality, reaffirms its commitment to the CNMI in providing affordable and accessible quality health care that puts you in control."

TakeCare's network of providers are in Hawaii, California, the Philippines, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan, Malaysia, New Zealand, and Australia.

The company advised patients at FHP Saipan's clinic to select a new primary care provider from their list, request to transfer medical records from FHP to the new provider, and schedule a first visit with the new provider.

TakeCare will no longer honor any requests for any of their services after April 30 since the clinic will already be closed. "Patient care will be transitioned in partnership with the health plan and its CNMI network providers to ensure a smooth transition for its members."

"Insurance coverage for existing CNMI members is unaffected. TakeCare is maintaining a service office at the existing Garapan location [at the TSL Plaza] to assist you," said in the letter.

For questions and scheduling of appointments, call Nora Sablan or Melanie Santos at 235-0994 or 235-0996 to 98.

NMTI

From Page 3

agency]. We are paying everything, filing everything, and doing everything we could, we get clean audits and so forth," she said.

NMTI contacted IRS about the issue and, according to McPhetres, IRS urged her to reapply for tax exemption. Although that has been delayed due to the filing of income taxes, McPhetres said the institute is "ready to send its tax exemption application [to IRS]" with the goal of applying for federal grants.

Public comments

Yesterday's committee hearing brought up the issue when the committee put up Senate Bill 20-21 for public comments. SB 20-21 is a bill that proposes to change NMTI's status as a private nonprofit school to that of a public career and technical training institution and establish a "Northern Marianas Technical Institute," an institute that would absorb the present NMTI.

According to the bill, the new institute as a career and technical educational institution would be established as a nonprofit public corporation under the CNMI government.

Latte Stone Training Academy executive director Arielle Buyum and Island Training Solutions owner James Arenovski went on to question the IRS – NMTI relationship.

Arenovski asked how businesses would avail of tax reductions for charitable donations to NMTI if the institution is not tax exempt in the first place.

The bill was opposed by the Northern Marianas College. NMC representatives questioned whether the CNMI government can fund the new institute, pointing out that, as NMC enrollment umbers went up, its funding steadily SB 20-21 includes a provision repealing Public Law 15-5, which mandates Northern Marianas College to develop U.S. Registered Apprenticeship Training Programs, or technical trades, effectively transferring responsibility to the new institute.

Also included in the bill is a repeal of PL 14-54, which authorizes the Public School System to establish a technical education program.

The Senate Education Committee has held in abeyance any action on the bill.

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Spanish historian: Collaboration will open opportunities

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI government could benefit from having closer ties with private foundations in Spain. These could result in the Commonwealth receiving grants and other materials that would reconnect it to its Spanish past.

The Marianas, with Guam, was a stopover of the Manila-Acapulco galleon trade route, linking commerce between East and Southeast Asia and Europe.

Carlos Madrid, Ph.D., who used to do lectures on Saipan, met with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last Tuesday to ask the CNMI's permission to borrow several artifacts from the Spanish galleon *Nuestra Señora de la Concepción* that ran aground near Agingan Point on Saipan.

JON PEREZ

Spanish historian Dr. Carlos Madrid, PhD, left, presents a book about the genealogy of local families to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Philippine Consul General to Guam and CNMI Marciano R. de Borja, Philippine consul Mark Francis C. Hamoy, Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Eli Arago, and his CNMI volunteers Annamae Adaza and Mario Mayuga were also present at the meeting.

The *Concepcion* collection is currently exhibited at the Saipan Museum of History and Culture. Madrid hopes to borrow some pieces that will be shown at the Museo del Galleon in Manila, Philippines this year. The exhibit will have its initial opening on Aug. 8 at the sprawling Mall of Asia complex.

Madrid said he could help arrange a possible collaboration, where the CNMI could receive funding from museums and private historical organizations in Spain.

"It could open a line of communication between the CNMI and Spain. …Particularly with the collection we're trying to borrow, it is a start. They could receive grants, publication, and we could consider bringing some of our collection here as a way to also promote tourism."

He said the CNMI could benefit once the galleon trade route gets on the list of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's world heritage sites. Spain, the Philippines, and Mexico are supporting its inclusion in the UNESCO list since it was one of the historic part of the world.

"That could be mutually beneficial for the CNMI. It would be great for the CNMI to be part of it since it has one of the greatest collection and pieces in Micronesia. And we want to establish institutional and professional relations with all museums in the area."

The [Saipan] museum probably is the best in Micronesia and the people here should take pride of that.

"Another one is the Palau National Museum, but the one here is a gem. What we're interested is establishing an agreement to borrow part of the collection and exhibit it at the Museo de Galleon, with proper accreditation, then return it after that."

Open to idea

Torres said he would meet with Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter on how the CNMI could help with the project.

"We're hoping to have a good working relationship with Dr. Madrid and the Philippine museum."

"We're interested on how we could partner with them. I'm going to meet with Secretary Hunter and we'll see how this project could push through. The artifacts and other pieces are for sharing and it showcases our rich history."

Torres added the partnership would be a little incentive that the CNMI government could look into. Some of the artifacts are also listed and under the possession of Bank of Guam.

He said the project is also timely as they already have a sponsor that is interested to revamp, re-organize, and rebuild the Saipan museum. "This is something that's moving forward and making sure that we have a new, improved museum that would become part of our tourism."

Museo de Galleon

De Borja said the Museo de Galleon, where an exact replica of a Spanish galleon would also be displayed, is a project of the Museo de Galleon Inc. in partnership with the SM Foundation, and various organizations in Spain.

"Dr. Madrid is here for a cultural project that would promote the common Spanish past of the Philippines and the CNMI. We know that the Saipan museum has a collection of artifacts from the *Concepción*."

"We want to work something out and have an arrangement with the CNMI in borrowing some of the collections so we could exhibit it in the Philippines. We're going to look at the inventory, then take care of the insurance and transporting the artifacts."

He added the pieces would make the CNMI known internationally since the museum's opening coincides with the 50th founding anniversary of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

De Borja said the expect the new musum to have 25,000 visitors a month. "And there's a fee in the museum and part of the proceeds will be given to the [Saipan] museum. So, it's a win-win situation for all."

The Museo de Galleon would give visitors a closer look of the 250-year history of the major roles played by the Philippines and Mexico in the global commercial trade during the Spanish era.

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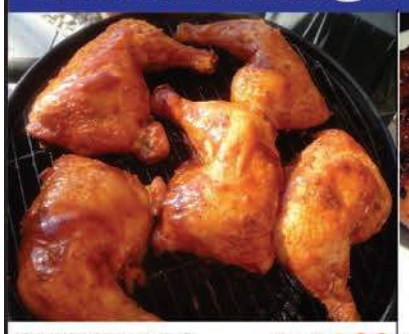

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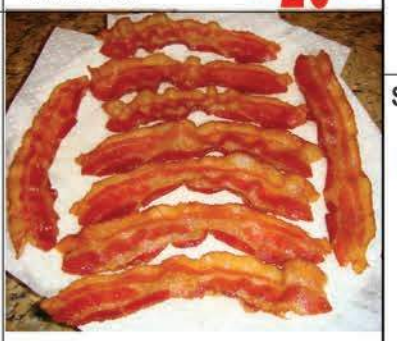

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PH consular outreach reaches 540 people

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kbautista1222@gmail.com
REPORTER

A total of 540 people availed of consular services here through the four-day outreach conducted by the Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam.

The outreach took place at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Hall in Susupe. It began on March 19 and lasted until March 22.

Philippine Consulate General Marciano de Borja told *Saipan Tribune* they were able to assist Filipinos apply for new passports, renew their expiring passport, obtain a report of marriage, apply for dual citizenships, and get their biometrics for their passports done.

The only Philippine Consulate General left in the Pacific is the one based in Agana, Guam. The one on Saipan and Palau closed down in 2012.

"…Because of this, we need to have consular outreach every other month because there are still many Filipino citizens who need to avail of consular services," said de Borja.

For this month's outreach, they reached out to 540 people, said Philippine consul Mark Hamoy. "There was actually 640 slots, but many did not show up for their schedules," said Hamoy.

The volunteer work of the United Filipino Organization and the assistance of Philippine honorary consul Glicero Arago helped make the outreach program possible, according to de Borja

Consular outreach programs are held on Saipan every other month. The next one is scheduled for May 2017.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Volunteers of the Philippine Consul General outreach program pose for the Saipan Tribune last Wednesday afternoon at the Multi-Purpose Center.

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Volunteers of the Philippine Consul General outreach program pose for the Saipan Tribune last Wednesday afternoon at the Multi-Purpose Center.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Philippine Consulate General Marciano de Borja administers the oath of citizenship for Filipinos who applied for dual citizenship at the Multi-Purpose Center.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Philippine Consulate General, Marciano de Borja explains the importance of the new Philippine passport to dual citizens at the consular outreach last Wednesday at the Multi-Purpose Center.

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MCS Theatre Club presents *#2ForRealz*

This weekend, Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club brings to the stage its first ever sequel, *#2ForRealz*. The follow-up to last year's smash hit, *For Realz*, *#2ForRealz* is an original dramatic comedy written by the club and directed by club veteran Zeno Deleon Guerrero.

#2ForRealz will simulate a reunion show for a fake reality TV show of the same name and follows the conflict between a group of boys and a group of girls. The production focuses on a number of issues that teens face on a daily basis: cyberbullying, relationships, and suicide, to name a few.

While Deleon Guerrero served as floor manager for numerous productions and starred in last year's production of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, *#2ForRealz* marks his directorial debut.

"I want this play to be a voice, an outlet, for people who have experienced or are experiencing these issues," said Deleon Guerrero. "I want the audience to recognize that these stories weren't just made up by some teens in a classroom; they're happening to people around us today."

As a reunion special, the production will rotate back and forth between stage performances and film clips from the TV show, both of which were developed organically through improvisation exercises with the cast.

#2ForRealz features an ensemble cast: Anthony Deleon Guerrero, You Jin Jun, Kelvin Cepeda, Rosalia Pangelinan, Maria Terlaje, Monica Usi, and Theresa Zheng. The show will also feature a cameo by 2015 AlumKnight and Theatre Club veteran Aysia Santos, who will play the show's host. Santos also directed the show's prequel, *For Realz* last year.

#2ForRealz runs on Friday, March 24, and Saturday, March 25, at Pacific Islands Club's Charley's. Doors open at 6:30pm nightly. Admission is $10 and tickets can be purchased at the Mount Carmel School Business Office. Advanced purchase of tickets is advised. Also, due to mature content and graphic language, adult discretion is also advised.

The show is presented with the generous support of Pacific Islands Club and Tribe Marianas. A portion of the proceeds will go towards efforts to curb cyberbullying. For more information, call 234-6184 or visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com. ***(PR)***

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Public invited to 'March for HERS' this Saturday

In celebration of CNMI Women's Month, the Marianas Young Professionals, or MYPros, is inviting the public to participate in the "March for H.E.R.S." on Saturday, March 25, from 2:30pm to 5:30pm at the American Memorial Park theater on Saipan.

In line with this year's theme, "Empowering Women to be Leaders for Change," this event aims educate attendees on women's issues through a series of brief presentations and open discussions from a wide variety of experts on health, economic security, representation, and safety, or HERS.

"In my experience, most people are in favor of the idea of gender equity, but don't really know what that looks like, why it's important, or how to achieve it. Even women, maybe especially women, struggle with this. There are many layers to these topics. We're all still learning," said event co-organizer and MYPros secretary Kaitlyn Neises-Mocanu. "The MYPros are hoping that through open discussions and information sharing, we can empower attendees with knowledge and build confident advocates for gender equity."

Participants will use what they learned from the presentations to design signage for the subsequent march through Garapan. Light refreshments and sign-making materials will be available. This event is free and open to the public. People of all genders and ages are encouraged to attend. The event venue and march route through Garapan are handicap accessible.

MYPros is an independent nonprofit organization of young professionals founded in February of 2015. Check out mypros.org or follow us on Facebook at Marianas Young Professionals. Questions? Email Sheila Babauta (sheilababauta@gmail.com) or Neises (kneisesm@hawaii.edu). ***(PR)***

First 'Mentor a MYPro' event next week

The first "Mentor a MYPro" event of 2017 is scheduled for Wednesday, March 29, from 5:30pm to 9pm at the Joeten Kia showroom on Beach Road. This event is one of four throughout the year where professionals and young professionals can mix and mingle, get career advice as well as hear professional success stories to inspire motivation.

"We want to provide a… relaxed atmosphere where young professionals can meet and get career advice from the movers and shakers in our community. It's important that young professionals are given the chance to discuss any hurdles they may have in their career and work on how to solve problems. Plus, it's great chance to network!" Nola Hix, VP of MYPros said.

"Mentorship is a great way to get involved to help shape the future of Saipan. Giving back to our young people and passing along wisdom and sharing success stories is key to showing what hard work and dedication can do and how they too can be successful and grow in the CNMI," said MYPros board president Matthew Deleon Guerrero.

Mentor a MYPro will have an assortment of healthy dishes from Everest Kitchen along with new brews and beverages provided by local Saipan Brewery and Joeten Supermarket. It is open and free for registered MYPros members/mentors, with an entry fee of $40 for new members/mentors. The entry fee will automatically pay your annual membership for the year and will go towards future MYPros event costs.

Alex Sablan of TanHoldings and Rep. Ivan Blanco attended the kick-off membership meet in January. ***(PR)***

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Volunteers collect 720 lbs of trash

A group of volunteers collected a large amount of trash last Saturday at the Paseo de Marianas.

The monthly cleanup, spearheaded by PDM Promoters Inc., was participated in by 30 Kinpachi Restaurant staff and Saipan Awaodori Team members, which had members as young as 6 years old.

"We involve these children in helping keep the environment clean. This is one way to keep them occupied and use their talents for good," said PDM Promoters Inc. coordinator Sonia Siwa.

The volunteers collected 720 lbs of trash from the Paseo de Marianas area and even covered Coral Tree Avenue and a portion of Beach Road.

The group has been collecting trash as part of their community outreach. They reportedly collected nearly 9,000 lbs of trash in 2016 from the Paseo de Marianas area alone.

The largest trash haul, according to Siwa, was back in January '16, when the group gathered 1,180 lbs of trash. February and November 2016 tied for second largest at 1,020 lbs of trash. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

The monthly cleanup, spearheaded by PDM Promoters Inc., was participated in by 30 Kinpachi Restaurant staff and Saipan Awaodori Team members
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High court affirms dismissal of review petition

On March 23, 2017, the Supreme Court issued its opinion in *Su Yue Min et al. v. Feng Hua Enter. et al.* The high court affirmed the trial court's order dismissing petition for judicial review for failure to prosecute and sanctioned Feng Hua Enterprise Inc., Li Jian De and Wu Yan Ming.

In 2008, Su Yue Min, Wu Yi Pan, Huang Shi Zhong, Li Dan Yun, Xiao Xue Ming, and Guo Li Ying filed a labor complaint against Feng Hua. The administrative hearing officer issued an order awarding Su $134,096.80, and the Labor secretary affirmed the order. Feng Hua filed a petition with the trial court for judicial review of the order but failed to take any affirmative action to move the case forward for three years. The trial court dismissed the petition for failure to prosecute.

Feng Hua appealed the trial court's ruling with the Supreme Court, arguing that the trial court erred. On review, the high court found that Feng Hua violated seven NMI Supreme Court Rules and failed to properly argue their case. Accordingly, the Supreme Court held the appeal was frivolous.

Additionally, the high court stated, "Even if we were to set aside Feng Hua's egregious violations of the appellate rules, the appeal still warrants dismissal."

In reaching this conclusion, the high court held that it gives deference to the trial court's finding that Feng Hua's three-year delay harmed Su. Because the appeal was meritless, the high court sanctioned Feng Hua and their counsel.

The high court's full opinion is available at http://www.cnmilaw.org/supreme17.html. ***(NMI Judiciary)***

Man accused of selling 'ice' pleads guilty

A man accused of selling crystal meth or "ice" last Aug. 16 in As Lito has pleaded guilty as part of a plea deal.

Juan Delos Reyes Tydingco, 40, pleaded guilty on Tuesday to illegal possession of a controlled substance. He will be sentenced on Aug. 15, 2017.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato served as his counse. Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds prosecuted the case.

A cooperating source of the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force managed to buy from Tydingco $140 worth of a substance that tested presumptive positive of methamphetamine. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Printing funded by the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Grant under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Service Administration.

Tourism
Topics
A bi-weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.
The Marianas
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Make Way for Runners!
Nearly 600 runners are preparing to descend on island for Saipan Marathon 2017 on Saturday (March 25).
Runners from Korea, Japan, China, the Philippines, USA, Slovakia, Hong Kong, Canada, Macau, Malaysia, Taiwan, Czech Republic, Guam, and The Marianas are putting the final touches on their preparation for the race, which will begin at American Memorial Park in the early morning hours of Saturday. The early start aims to help racers beat the tropical heat that is anticipated to descend as the sun rises higher in the sky.
The course will feature four courses: marathon, half-marathon, 10K, and a grueling 50K. The course will run from American Memorial Park north to Marpi and Capitol Hill and south to San Antonio. A majority of the runners will be traversing Beach Rd. throughout the morning. For the safety of runners, the outer southbound land will be closed from Kensington Resort to Pacific Islands Club during the race.
To put our best foot forward for the runners and visiting media, the Marianas Visitors Authority and its partners will be cleaning the road from the fire sub-station in Garapan south to Grandvrio Resort Saipan. Therefore, parking will be closed along this southbound lane in this area until after the race. Drivers are asked to exercise caution and follow all traffic officer directions, and dog owners are reminded to secure their pets.
Good luck to all racers!
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Water outage in Fina Sisu, As Perdido, Dandan

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on March 28, 2017, from 8am to 5pm in the Fina Sisu and As Perdido areas.

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Water/Wastewater Engineering and Operations staff will be conducting numerous tests on the water pressure around the Finasisu and As Perdido areas to determine necessary changes to provide a more effective and efficient operation. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water services soon thereafter.

There were sporadic water outages throughout the village of Dandan yesterday, March 23. Customers in the affected areas should have had normal water services in the afternoon. The outages were intended to replace deteriorated and corroded non-working valves on an 8-inch main.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. ***(CUC)***

Navy held Industry Day at UOG

MANGILAO, Guam—The U.S. Navy sponsored an Industry Day for ship repair and training with local businesses on March 21 at the University of Guam.

Representatives from Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet in Hawaii visited to discuss capabilities, capacities and resources in support of welding, sheet metal, electronic, electrical and pipefitting repair.

Capt. Nonito Blas, who works in Material Readiness at SUBPAC, led discussions with island contractors at the Jesus and Eugenia Leon Guerrero School of Business and Public Administration.

"The goal of Industry Day was to understand each other's capabilities and resources across the public and private sector," Blas said. "We wanted to provide resources to these companies on Guam to help the ship repair contracting process."

About 30 members from Guam's private industry ship-repair partners attended. ***(PR)***

Navy training in Barrigada

ASAN, Guam—Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 will conduct a training exercise at the former Admiral Nimitz Golf Course in Barrigada today, March 23, from 9pm to 11pm.

The training involves various scenarios designed to enhance tactical readiness and will incorporate blank ammunition fired from military helicopters. The training event will be held over the immediate golf course area.

Residents are advised to not be alarmed if they see or hear an increase in military presence in the vicinity of Nimitz golf course. ***(PR)***

Call for historical papers

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council, University of Guam, Northern Marianas College, and Guampedia are calling for papers for the 3rd Marianas History Conference. The conference will be held on Saipan on Sept. 1-3, 2017, at a venue to be announced later.

A full range of topics associated with the Marianas Archipelago's history will be addressed at the conference. Paper abstracts with a maximum of 150 words and the presenter's biography may be submitted online via the following link: tinyurl.com/3rdMHC.

The deadline for abstracts is April 28, 2017. Conference presenters will be allotted 20 minutes to present. For more information about the conference, contact council staff at 235-4785 or visit the council's website at: www.northernmarianashumanities.org. ***(PR)***

Navy training at FDM, Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- March 24 from 10 a.m. to 3:30pm

The Navy will also conduct training at Warning Area 517 (W-517) today, March 23 from noon to 10pm.

The public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated. ***(PR)***

Bodybuilding contest on March 25

The 3rd Annual Marianas Muscle Bodybuilding & Physique Contest will be held on Saturday, March 25, 2017, starting at 3m at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Admission is $10 per person. There will be an entry fee of $15 per competitor.

Ursula Martin, who was expected to be present on March 25, 2017, will be unable to attend. However, the contest will still go on as scheduled. Registration for competitors is ongoing and registration forms may be obtained from Jocelyn Itibus (287-1232 or jocelynitibus@gmail.com), Karen Davis (789-9214 or karen.davis0812@gmail.com) or Jeanne Rayphand (287-9807 or jeanneesq@yahoo.com or NMPASI office). Admission tickets are also available. ***(PR)***

Students invited to join AMP Reading Ranger Program

Students in the 3rd to 5th grades are being invited to join the American Memorial Park for a two-day reading program this month. Called the Reading Ranger program, it will take place on March 23-24, 2017, from 9am to 4:30pm. Park rangers will be reading *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* by Eleanor Coerr. After reading the book, participates will engage in fun, learning activities. Students will also help to fold 1,000 paper cranes that will be sent to the Children's Peace Memorial in Hiroshima, Japan, in recognition of World Peace Day. To register, pick up a registration form at the American Memorial Park Visitor Center. For more information, call Jovanna Mafnas at 234-7207 x 2020 or via email at jmafnas@pacificchistoricparks.org. ***(NPS)***

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Individuals who meet the requirements of a position may apply at IP&E Saipan, located at the Puerto Rico Terminal Office on Industrial Drive. Applications will be accepted through March 27, 2017.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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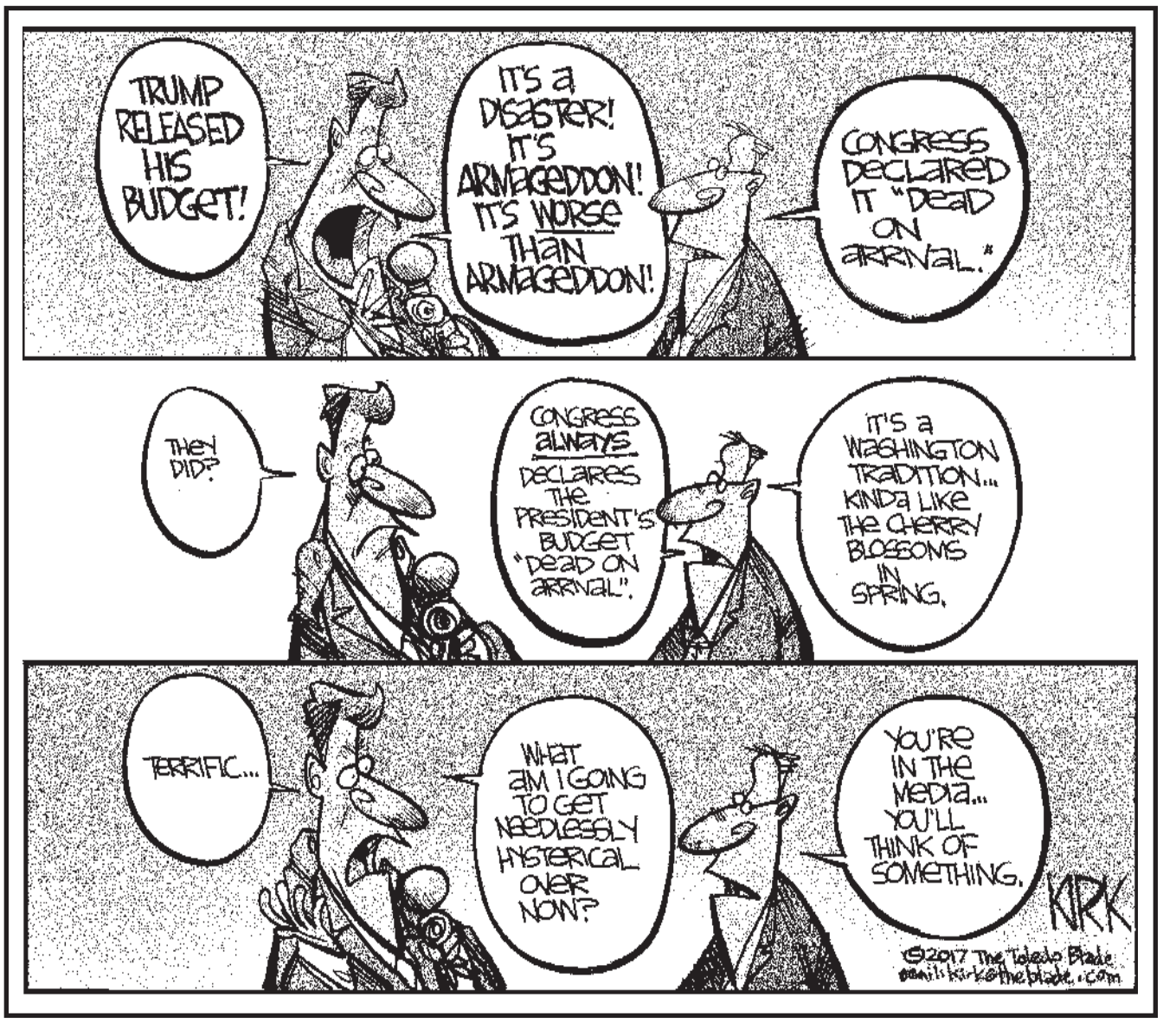
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EDITORIAL

Comey keeps it real with Trump

Monday's extraordinary House Intelligence Committee hearing confirmed for Americans something that's real and something that's not. The difference between the two is a distinction President Donald Trump seems incapable or unwilling to understand, but the rest of us should.

First, what's real: FBI director James Comey confirmed that his agency is investigating Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election and whether associates of Trump were in contact with the Russian government.

Importantly, that investigation includes whether there was coordination between the Trump campaign and Moscow. More importantly, that investigation has yet to conclude there was any connection. But the fact that there's evidence to suggest possible collusion between the president's campaign and a foreign enemy reinforces the need for a special prosecutor to oversee such an investigation.

That need was abundantly clear at Monday's hearing as both Democrats and Republicans used Comey's appearance for political purposes. The stagecraft included ranking Democratic committee member Adam Schiff wondering aloud about all the "coincidences" involving Trump associates and Russia, as well as Republicans frequently attempting to shift the focus away from Trump and Russia to leaks about Trump to the press.

(One question, perhaps political, that was left unasked Monday: Why did Comey refrain from announcing this investigation during the election? He wasn't nearly as reticent about publicizing that the FBI was revisiting Hillary Clinton's emails just weeks before Nov. 8.)

The other big news from Monday's hearing involved what wasn't real. Comey also told the House committee that the FBI had "no information" to support Trump's allegations that then-President Barack Obama wiretapped him at Trump Tower.

That adds to the list of officials and agencies denying this falsehood—a list that includes the Department of Justice, Democratic and Republican leaders of the House and Senate Intelligence committees, and the British government.

That last denial was necessary because Trump press secretary Sean Spicer speculated last week that British intelligence might have wiretapped Trump at Obama's request. The notion was ridiculous, and British officials were livid at the suggestion.

That's the thing about falsehoods. Once you let one loose, you sometimes get in more trouble chasing it around. It's a lesson Trump didn't have to learn on the campaign trail, but being president means your words have more weight.

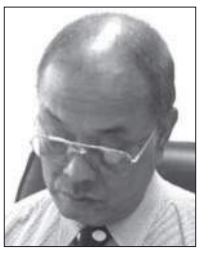
It should go without saying that Trump needs to apologize to Obama for wrongly accusing him of a felony. He also should apologize to the U.S. intelligence community for suggesting that it participated in the crime, and to British officials for somehow turning this into a global mess.

Sadly, it also goes without saying that Trump's ego

See COMEY on Next Page

The NMI's failed bravado

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Out of ignorance and adolescent arrogance, we spouted bravado or decisions that it's okay to lose Nippon investments in favor of a new friend and partner. We ignored the pioneering efforts of Nippon investors in tourism here in the late '60s. We forced them to think with their luggage. They did!

Little did we know of its disastrous consequences like our deepening financial troubles these days. Call it political immaturity!

Now we're back-pedaling, seeking to revive tourism from the Land of the Rising Sun. Well, it's basically history! In two short years, when Japan opens its integrated casino resorts, most of their very own would invest right at home visiting the new tourism facilities! Would the IR now in the works for the island ever be completed?

Recalled when we told Congress in 1993 to stop all grant funds from the U.S. Congress for we were filthy rich! Now we begin seeing the realities of a deteriorating economy, worried sick as to ask Trump to be included in his basic infrastructure plans. Well, Trump is talking improving facilities across the country, not across the ocean. Did you get that, pal?

Sadly, we are sowing the seed of ignorance and junior varsity courage dazed at the poverty income level of over 51 percent of families here. Boy! What progress we've made "advancing to the rear!"

Losses: Over time we've lost some $7 billion of investments when the last Nippon yen was wire transferred from here. The NMI never recovered from such loss even with new partners. Remember the total relocation of the $2.1-billion apparel industry? The NMI lost a total of about $12 billion in combined investments. Now we wish to revive tourism from Japan. Really? Isn't this a day late and a dollar short, so to speak?

Basics: A recent study says tourism plans here are "unrealistic" and would require immediate building of needed basic infrastructure to support it. It must be understood that development gravitates to places where basic infrastructure have already been emplaced. It's never the reverse!

Disoriented, we now want to partake in Trump's infrastructure plans. He's talking about updating facilities across the country, not across the Pacific. We also want to partake on all entitlement programs that would be spared by the Trump administration. What are they? Talk about the epitome of adolescent inconsistency and incomprehension!

Skinny: President Donald Trump's long-awaited skinny budget is finally here, according to the March 16 commentary by Romina Boccia, the leading fiscal and economic expert at the Heritage Foundation who focuses on government spending and the national debt of.

"This slim budget reprioritizes defense spending and reverses eight years of Obama-era shifts in spending from a core constitutional priority toward his domestic pet projects. Federal agencies, beware: The era of fiscal profligacy may be coming to an end, and quickly," Boccia noted.

"Trump's first budget plays a key role in the congressional budget process. This skinny budget is only part one. It focuses on the one-third of the budget for which Congress appropriates funding every year, called discretionary spending. Cuts would include mandatory spending or entitlement programs. Obama left behind $20 trillion in federal deficit Trump must deal with.

CHC in shambles: Reportedly, the hospital finance is in shambles. Well, the elected elite has turned Manila hospitals into their hospital of choice over CHC. It's guarding their Cadillac lifestyle while we make do with an insufficiently funded healthcare system.

Healthcare is one of three most vital area of government, the other being education and public safety. Perhaps the solutions driven team has some magical medication under its sleeves to begin righting serious anomaly at the local hospital. I challenge you to do something right by doing it right!

See BRAVADO on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The century after Magellan

By ED STEPHENS JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

When Ferdinand Magellan came across the Mariana islands in 1521 he was heading west in order to reach the Spice Islands (which are part of Indonesia). Alas, the intrepid Portuguese explorer didn't get to complete his itinerary. After leaving the Marianas, Magellan got embroiled in some intrigue in Cebu (Philippines), tried to muscle some of the locals, and got himself mortally skewered as a result. What remained of his fleet and what remained of his men then continued to the Spice Islands.

So what's up with this spice stuff?

That question is addressed by a book, *Nathaniel's Nutmeg* (Penguin, 388 pp., $16.00) by Giles Milton. This is a profoundly well-written book, wide in scope, and generous in depth.

Published in 1999, it takes a look at the heyday of the nutmeg frontier when things really heated up in the first half of the 1600s.

The Portuguese made early inroads into the Spice Islands. By the early 1600s, however, the English and Dutch were gaining momentum in the maritime realm. Portugal and Spain no longer had the action to themselves. Nutmeg, incidentally, was sold as a remedy in Europe to fight the plague.

The Dutch and English found themselves locked in a brutal rivalry in the Spice Islands, to include an island called Run. Run is smaller than Saipan but it held a mother lode of nutmeg.

Getting from Europe to those islands, and then back again, was a risky endeavor. About a decade into the spice race one tally for the English went like so: Of the 12 ships and about 1,200 men they sent to the islands, one-third of the ships didn't survive the voyage, and about 800 of the men perished from disease alone.

The line between merchant ships, fighting ships, and pirate ships was often a blurry one. National rivalries were vicious. The captains, sailing under commissions from their monarchs or officials, would often be given license to plunder or sink ships that were flying other colors.

Not everybody, however, played for their home team. Magellan, for example, was Portuguese but he sailed for the Spanish. Henry Hudson, for whom Hudson River in the U.S. is named, was English but he sailed for the Dutch.

If you're wondering why Hudson would be part of a Spice Islands story, it's because he had been dispatched from Europe to find a shortcut to the west Pacific. He wound up in current-day New York.

That shortcut gig went from false hope to false hope. Sailing from Europe to the islands involved either going around Africa or going around South America. Various expeditions, all futile, were mounted to explore northern routes as shortcuts.

Anyway, back in the islands, procuring nutmeg and other spices involved setting up bases for trading, warehousing, provisioning, and such. Hey, some things never change: Logistics has often been the difference between failure and success in just about every large endeavor. This endeavor was probably no exception.

The warehouse and trading bases were run by guys called "factors," and the structures themselves were called "factories."

One such factor was young Nathaniel Courthope. He signed a seven-year contract and in 1610 set sail from London for the islands. En route, he and some others wound up in irons in the Middle East. Courthope survived the ordeal and eventually made it to the islands. After various adventures he wound up being appointed the captain of a voyage to Run.

Courthope arrived at Run in 1616, by which point the Dutch squeeze on England's spice action was reaching critical mass. Run was in the process of becoming England's last stand in that area.

Run, which had no source of fresh water, was essentially under Dutch siege for 1,540 days, and Courthope's men died one by one of disease. The Dutch, with a well-armed presence, finally succeeded in slaying Courthope himself.

Thus ended this episode in tropical history, an episode that had no shortage of danger, plunder, and brutality.

We started with Magellan so we might as well end with him, too. You may have heard of the Strait of Magellan. If so, you might have noticed that it's at the southern tip of South America. Magellan's route from Spain to the Mariana Islands involved crossing the Atlantic, going to the southern tip of South America, then working west across the Pacific. Magellan took a shortcut through some waters that stand in the southern tip of South America, hence the "Strait of Magellan."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Honoring the Covenant…41 years later

For over four decades, the Covenant has been our sacred agreement with the United States.

Through the years, it has paved the way for great accomplishments to come to our people and our islands. It has also allowed us to grow and adapt with the changes that have come our way. All in all, it has stood as the object that helps us to chart the course of our Commonwealth, and something we are proud to uphold through the oaths we took for the offices we hold.

Torres

Hocog

Today, take a moment to remember the sacrifices and work put in to create what created our present day CNMI. Honor the framers and drafters of the articles that shaped our government and our islands into what they are now. And take the time to show gratitude for the benefits we are reaping because of the Covenant.

From our families to yours, may you have a safe and happy Covenant Day!

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres
Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog

41 years as a commonwealth

On March 24, 1976, President Gerald R. Ford signed a document that took years of hard work and intense negotiation by our founders. But their belief in self-determination resulted in one of the most unique political relationships in modern democracy—a Commonwealth in political union with the United States.

After 41 years, we continue to strengthen this relationship through mutual understanding of our unique needs as an island community. We remain committed to making sure our Covenant upholds our founders' original intent, which is to promote economic self-sufficiency in the modern world economy and to raise the standard of living for the people who call these islands home.

Palacios

Today, we look back on our progress as a Commonwealth, but we continue to look toward the future, where our islands' best days are ahead if we continue to work together.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Si yu'us ma'ase yan olomwaay.

Acting governor Arnold I. Palacios

COMEY

From Page 14

won't allow him to make any of those apologies. Instead, Spicer refused Monday to back down from the wiretapping allegations, and Trump was defiant as always.

His FBI director, however, served the American people by clarifying which allegations were real enough to investigate further, and which weren't. The Russia allegations might or might not eventually diminish Trump, the office he occupies, and our credibility on the global stage. The wiretapping allegations already have.

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BRAVADO

From Page 14

It's health and poverty income salaries of 51 percent of workers here and over 46 percent of folks without some form of health insurance that presents real challenges to the "solutions driven" team. A useless hopeful speech pales against recent performance! Can't fool the poor that things are well when they struggle with familial poverty daily.

Rainy day: When the NMI made tons of money in the mid-'80s through the '90s, did it save anything at all for that rainy day or "not yet, already?" A lot is wrong in paradise! Just ask the 3,000-plus locals who evacuated elsewhere in recent past in search of greener pastures abroad.

Then there's the mounting deficit, now pegged at $471 million excluding other long-term debts like the $700 million-plus owed the old retirement program.

The pearly isles of the NMI are home for our people. The elected elite must work the clock to ensure it stays that way, not a hellish hole that becomes a nightmarish part of memory. This evacuation continues to this day.

2018 contest: We've heard questions asked casually or apprehensively who would be the gubernatorial tandems in next year's contest. The answer comes like colors of blurred rainbow at a distance.

Nonetheless, it's easy discerning the sentiment of informed citizenry, political loyalists and alleged kingmakers. The options are obvious: repeat with the "do-nothing" solutions driven team or an informed team fully rounded with people's issues ready to make changes, or the neophyte with empty *biba* smiles plastered across their face.

Prism: A friend related he couldn't believe my personal story about poverty. I reiterated that I have lived it and even tabbed water my way between classes. And unless he's lived it, he can't see it without my prism to understand and appreciate what I had to endure a long time ago.

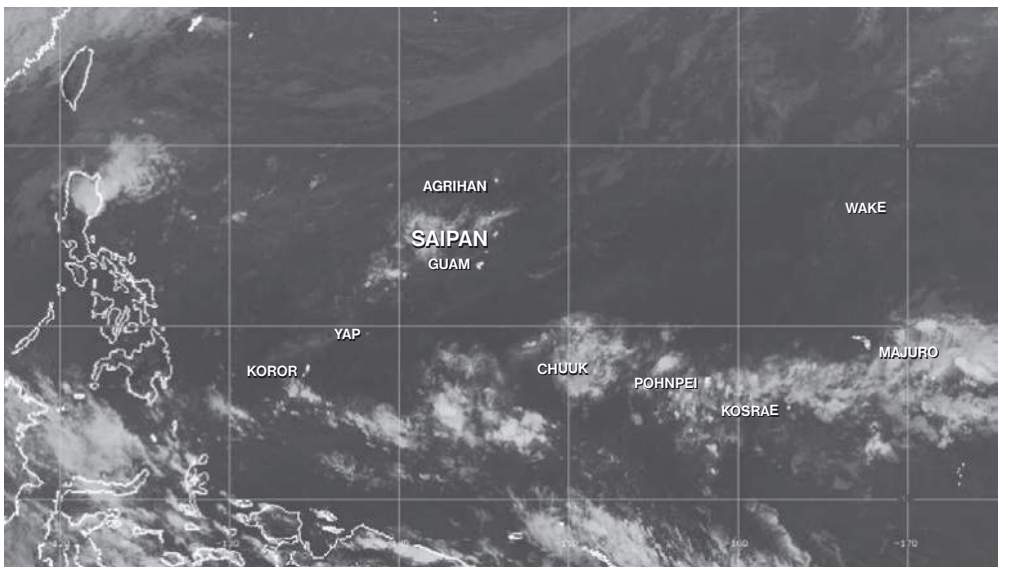
We didn't have food stamps then nor was there a school lunch program to fill our tummies before class. It was either tab water, boiled taro, or nothing at all! It remains my prized years for honing personal conviction to extricate myself from it. I think I've succeeded.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 3:05 AM, THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Scatterometer data from Wednesday night showed a shear line draped across the Marianas. At the present time the shear line is weak and deep-layer moisture is lacking, so expect partly cloudy skies today and this evening. GFS, ECMWF and NAVGEM show that the shear line may generate mostly cloudy skies after midnight tonight and part of the day on Friday. Add a few clouds to the forecast although shower coverage should remain isolated. Dry season weather will prevail through the weekend as moisture will remain shallow with partly cloudy and isolated showers are all that is expected.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Clear	87 | 78 °F
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	86 | 76 °F
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	84 | 71 °F
Chuuk	Overcast	85 | 79 °F
Pohnpei	Overcast	82 | 78 °F
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	85 | 80 °F
Majuro	Overcast	85 | 80 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Clear	73 | 58 °F
Beijing	Overcast	50 | 35 °F
Hong Kong	Scattered Clouds	76 | 68 °F
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84 | 70 °F
London	Mostly Cloudy	55 | 43 °F
Los Angeles	Clear	66 | 51 °F
Manila	Clear	93 | 78 °F
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	75 | 54 °F
Miami	Clear	79 | 68 °F
New York	Clear	43 | 34 °F
Osaka	Overcast	55 | 41 °F
Paris	Clear	59 | 39 °F
Pusan	Clear	62 | 36 °F
Rome	Scattered Clouds	64 | 47 °F
Salem	Scattered Clouds	55 | 40 °F
San Francisco	Clear	61 | 49 °F
Seoul	Haze	57 | 31 °F
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	56 | 40 °F
Washington, DC	Clear	48 | 34 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
5:43 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.72
11:27 AM	LOW TIDE	1.02
11:34 PM	HIGH TIDE	0.07
-	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:18 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:17 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:17 AM	6:28 PM
Monday	6:16 AM	6:28 PM
Tuesday	6:15 AM	6:28 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:08 AM	2:56 PM	-
Saturday	3:55 AM	3:50 PM	-
Sunday	4:41 AM	4:45 PM	-
Monday	5:27 AM	5:42 PM	-
Tuesday	6:14 AM	6:39 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5

SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)

7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	4, 7
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

UO43	1:40am	5:00am	1, 4, 6
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/723	3:50am	12:50pm	Daily via ICN
PR1572/318	5:45am	12:20pm	4, 7 via MNL
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4

JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN

7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
PR307/1571	6:20pm	4:45am+1	3, 6 via MNL
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

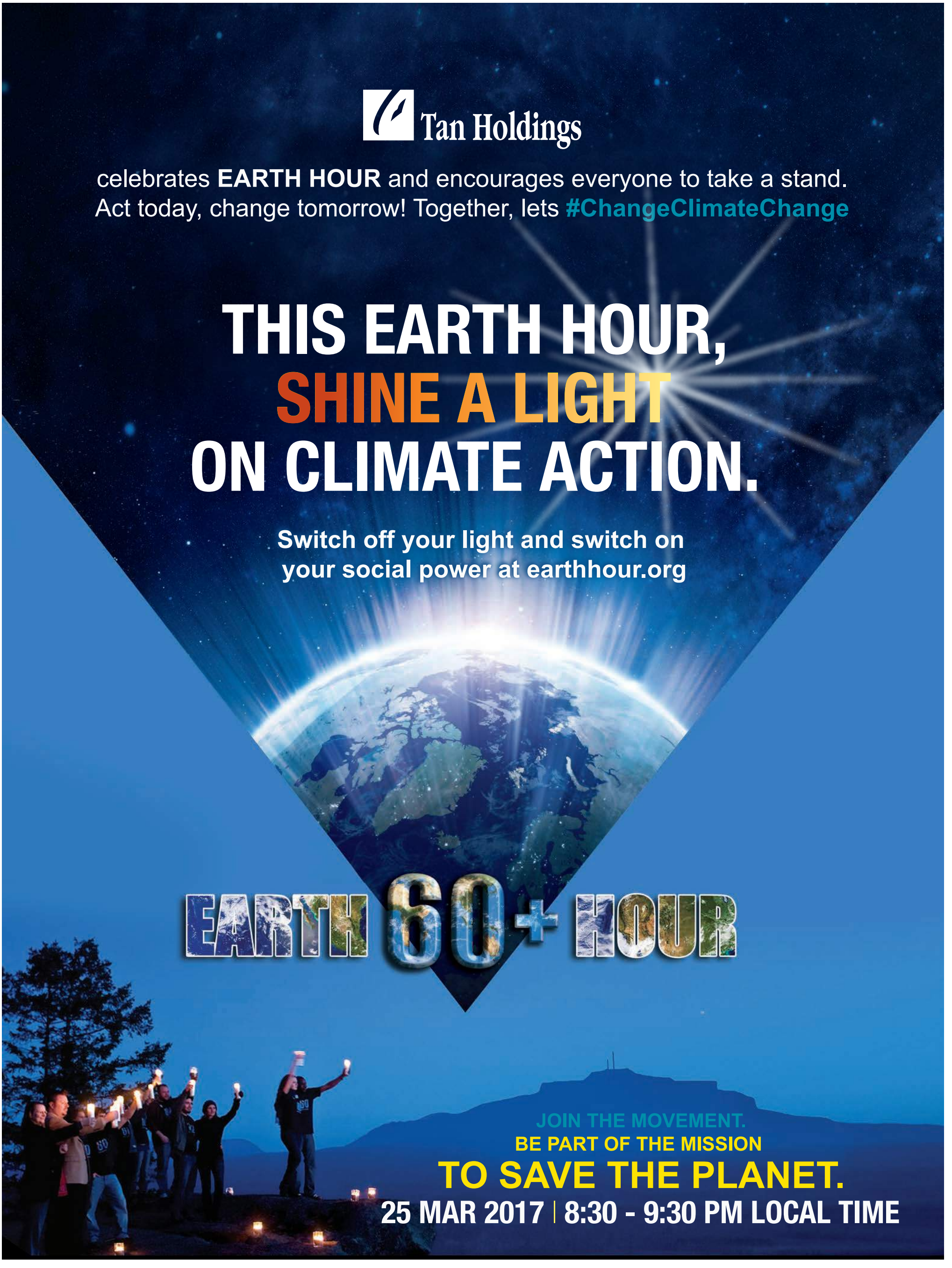
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat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Mission impossible in Hong Kong

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

HONG KONG, China—Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to go on the garden variety tour of the former crown colony and then use the remaining less than two hours to shop for souvenirs and mementos from your abbreviated six-hour on-shore visit of Hong Kong.

That spiel from the opening of the Hollywood blockbuster *Mission Impossible* kind of sums up the challenge media from the CNMI and Guam—as well as Stay and Cruise promotion partners—gamely took on the *SuperStar Virgo*'s third and final port call on Wednesday.

The group, which was part of the familiarization tour organized by Resorts World Manila that earlier called on the ports of Currimao in Ilocos Norte and Kaohsiung, Taiwan, embarked after lunch and took a tour bus from Kowloon to Hong Kong up to The Peak. Formerly called Victoria Peak, the area is Hong Kong's most exclusive neighborhood since colonial times.

Our tour guide, Carol, said the British immediately took a liking to the nearly 2,000-foot mountain due to its cooler air in the pre air-conditioning era and majestic view of Victoria Harbor. For a time, taking up residence in The Peak was exclusive to British citizens until a half-Chinese Brit forced the colonial government to ease the regulation in the 1930s.

Next stop for the FAM tour participants was Aberdeen Fishing Village, a mere 30 minutes downhill from The Peak.

Even as Aberdeen continues to be a thriving and busy harbor, the district is still home to the boat-dwelling Tanka people, which the group saw first hand during its short $8 sampan boat-ride around the canal.

Carol said the Tanka people are in a predicament these days as fewer of their youth take up the traditional way of living on their boats, called sampan; the present generation has traded fishing nets for a career in the big city.

The tour of Hong Kong concluded with a visit to the Garden of Stars, which included larger-than-life statues of the territory's movie stars including those of Bruce Lee and Anita Mui.

Free and easy couldn't have come sooner, as members of the group immediately made a beeline to the nearest shopping malls and stores that were a few steps away from the Garden of Stars.

While a few gravitated toward the fancy-shmancy boutiques in Harbor City, some members of the FAM tour sprinted to the fly-by-night shops located in Hong Kong's narrow streets to buy their souvenirs.

Looking for the bargain makeshift stores, however, proved daunting as the exhausted and hungry group had to walk for more than an hour in the city's crowded streets in a mild drizzle before finally hitting paydirt near Kimberly Street.

The bounty were some "I Love Hong Kong" T-shirts and caps, refrigerator magnets depicting the city's skyline, tram, Victoria Harbor, and The Peak, and a few other souvenirs for the family and loved ones back home.

As a bonus, the group found a cute little Korean store that sold anything from bags to computer accessories, face masks, stuffed toys, to water tumblers at reasonable prices on the way back to the *SuperStar Virgo*.

Resorts World Manila's Geric Hagemann later said he was relieved the group was able to buy souvenirs; he admitted that finding the bargain store in less than two hours was a minor miracle in itself.

The familiarization tour headed back to its homeport of Manila yesterday and the tour group would call Belmont Hotel at Resorts World Manila its home the next couple of days before flying back to Guam via Cebu Pacific Sunday morning.

The 882-foot, over 75,000-gross ton *SuperStar Virgo* could accommodate up to 1,870 passengers and was designed specifically for the Asian cruise market.

With rates starting at just $655 per person, you can stay at two properties of Resorts World Manila—the Philippines' premier integrated entertainment and tourism destination—and go on a cruise aboard *SuperStar Virgo* as the luxury liner makes Manila its new homeport from March 19 to May 23.

Sailing dates are March 24 and 29, April 3, 8, 13, 18, 23, and 28, and May 3, 8, 13, 18, and 23.

Guam and Saipan residents

Continued on Next Page

Colon Cancer is one of the Top 5 most Diagnosed Cancers in the CNMI
March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month
Protect yourself: Know the Facts

What is colon Cancer?
The colon and rectum are parts of the digestive system. Colon cancer begins when cells that are not normal grow inside the colon or rectum. The cancer often begins as a small growth called a polyp. Polyps are not cancer, but they can turn into cancer overtime. Colon cancer is one of the Top 5 most diagnosed cancers in the CNMI.

What are the symptoms?
There usually are no symptoms of colon cancer at first. When the disease is more advanced, common symptoms include blood in the stool, a change in bowel habits, cramps, weight loss, a tired feeling, and nausea.

What is screening?
Screening means looking for signs of disease before symptoms appear. There are several tests that check for signs of colon cancer. Used alone or together, these tests could save your life.

Two common tests are:
Fecal Immunochemical Test: You can do this test every year at home with a kit your health care provider will give you. This test checks for blood in stool.
Colonoscopy: The doctor inserts a thin lighted tube into the rectum and colon to check for polyps or cancer while the patient is under anesthesia.

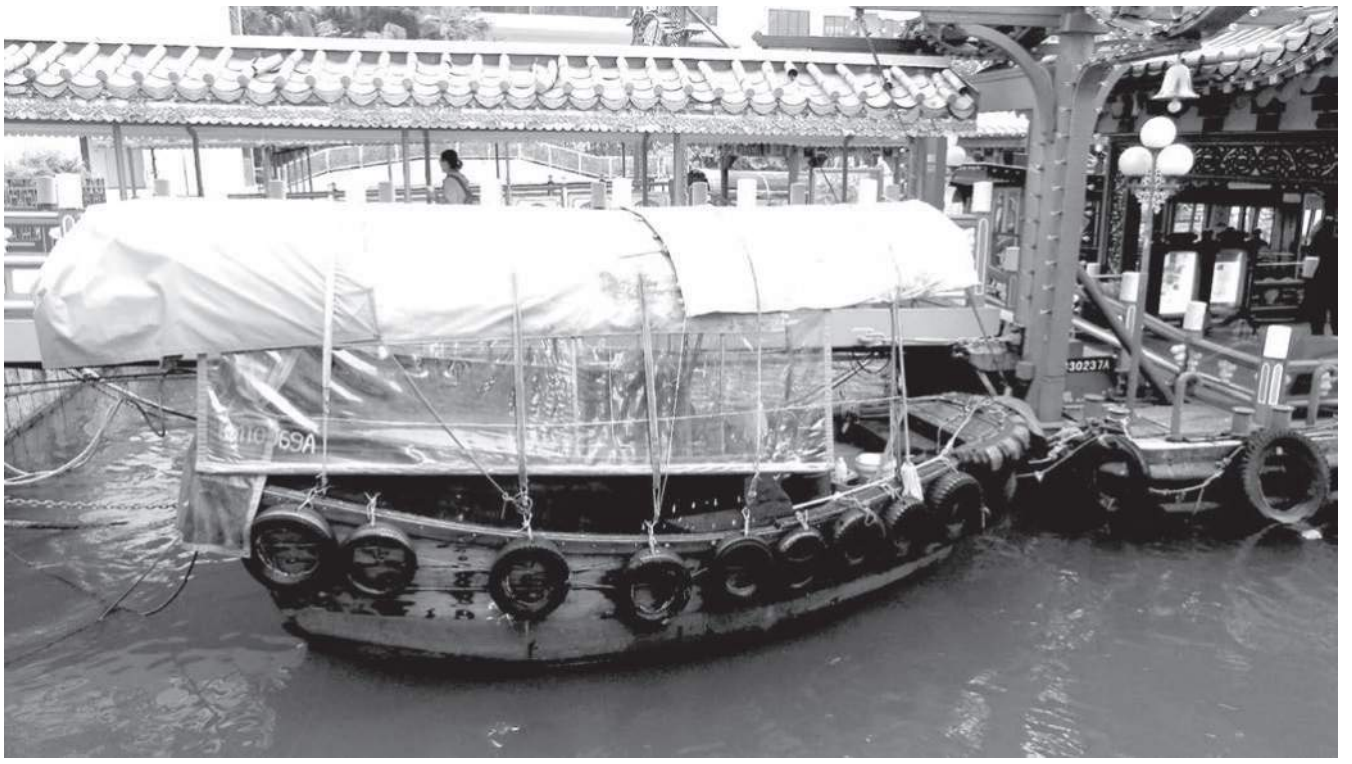
Why is cancer screening important?
Screening saves lives. Colon Cancer screening is important because there usually are no symptoms at first. A colonoscopy or annual FIT test can find cancer early, it is easiest to treat. Colonoscopy can also find polyps and other growths that are not normal. Removing these growths can stop colon from developing.

Who should be screened?
People age 50 or older should be screened regularly. The chance of getting colon cancer increases with age. More than 90 percent of people of who get colon cancer are age 50 or older. Younger people with other risk factors should talk to their doctor about when and how often to be screened

What are some other risk factors?
Your chance of getting the disease increases if:
- You or a close relative has had colon polyps or colon cancer
- You have inflammatory bowel disease or certain hereditary conditions.

How can I reduce my chance of getting colon cancer?
- Talk with your doctor about which screening test is right for you and how often to be screened. At least 60% of colon cancer deaths could be prevented if everyone age 50 and older got screened regularly.
- Don't smoke.
- Eat a healthy diet with plenty of fruits and vegetables, avoid high-fat foods, limit red meat and processes meat.
- Exercise and stay at a healthy weight.

Commonwealth Cancer Association
AWARENESS•EDUCATION•HOPE
For more information, you can contacty the CCA at 682-0050 or via email at ccamarianas@gmail.com, or visit our website at www.ccamarianas.org. Or you can visit CCA ofofice at the Gualo Rai Plaza Building, located along Chalan Pale Arnold Middle Rd in Gualo Rai.
Marianas March Against Cancer 2017



The Tanka people make their living aboard fishing boats like these that are called *sampans*.

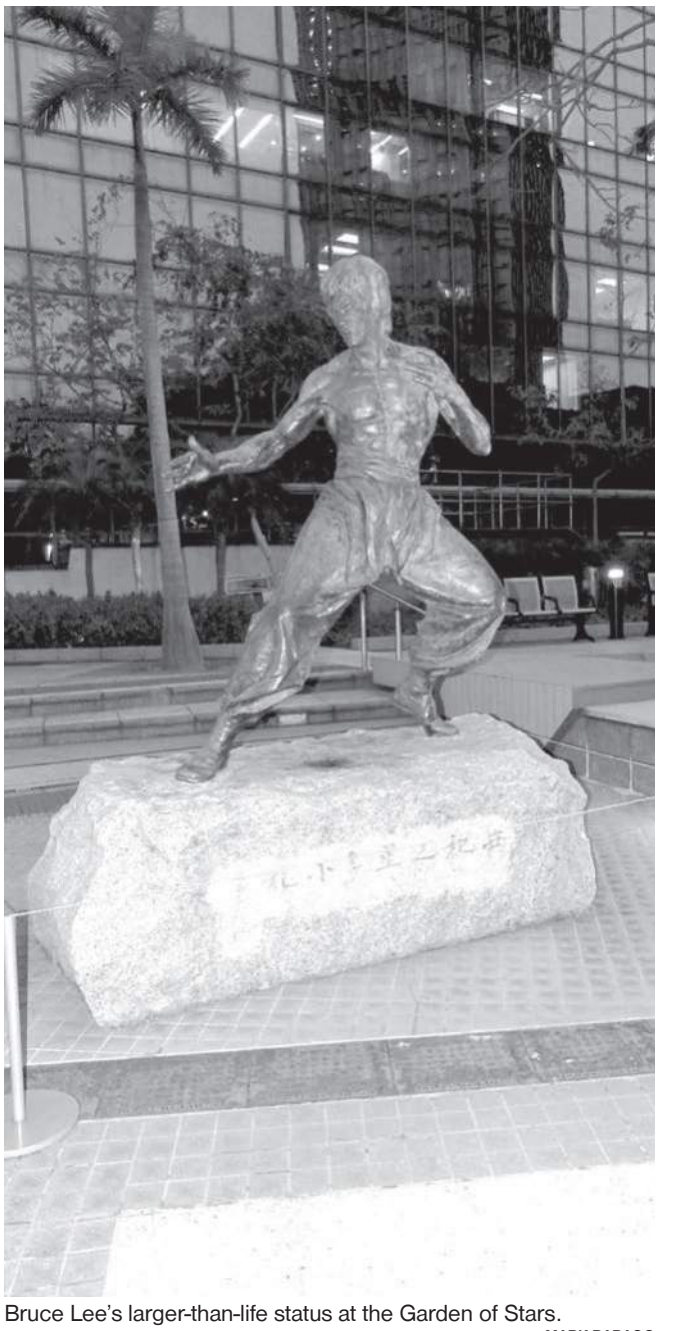
MARK RABAGO

A stone's throw away from Kimberly Street was the bargain souvenir store the group found.

MARK RABAGO

can directly avail of the Stay and Cruise package using credit card payments through the SSV RWM BUNDLE option at www.rwmanila.com/stayandcruise. The package is inclusive of two-night accommodations at Resorts World Manila hotels.

Those interested can also call John Hagemann at +63917878583/john.hagemann@rwmanila.com or Janine Chua at +639178788576/janine.chua@rwmanila for more details. For other inquiries and reservations, contact Tourist/Visitor Hotline at (02) 908-8833 or visit www.rwmanila.com.



Bruce Lee's larger-than-life status at the Garden of Stars.

MARK RABAGO

COMMONWEALTH LOTTERY COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE

A Special Meeting of the Commonwealth Lottery Commission will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, March 27, 2017 at the Juan Sablan Memorial Building on Capitol Hill, Saipan. The public is invited to attend.

The following is the proposed agenda

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum

III. Public Comment

IV. Adoption of Agenda

V. Adoption of Minutes

VI. New Business
A. Discussion on proposed amendments to exclusive casino license on the following items
a. The Live Training Facility 6 months extension
b. The completion date of Initial Gaming Facility (IGF) 6 months extension from August 2014
c. The completion timeline for phase one
d. Payment schedule of funds outlined in license
e. DPAC

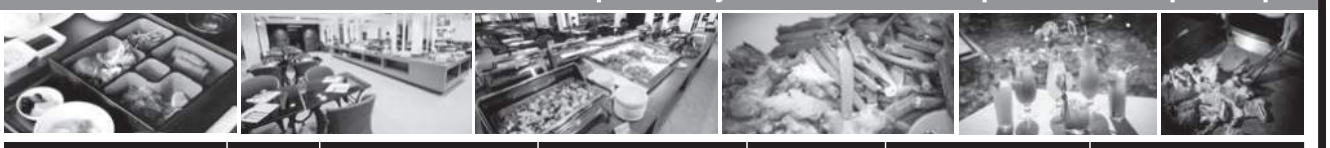
VII. Executive Session
VIII. Adjournment

For further information, please contact the Lottery Commission by telephone through the Office of the Finance Secretary at 664-1100.

GRAND VRIO RESORT SAIPAN

Welcome to enjoy fantastic buffet at our **"Tropicana Restaurant"** (2nd floor of Taga Tower)! Performance is available on Sunday Brunch. All you can eat and drink! Champagne, beers.

*** Breakfast: 7:00am-10:00am * Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm *Sunday Brunch: 11:00am-2:00pm *Dinner: 5:30pm-9:00pm**



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
RESTAURANT TROPICANA			3/1	3/2	3/3 **Buffet Lunch $14** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	3/4 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*
3/5 **Sunday Brunch $22** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	3/6	3/7 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	3/8 **Buffet Lunch $14** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	3/9	3/10 **Buffet Lunch $14** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	3/11 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*
3/12 **Sunday Brunch $22** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	3/13	3/14 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	3/15 **Buffet Lunch $14** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	3/16	3/17 **Buffet Lunch $14** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	3/18 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*
3/19 **Sunday Brunch $22** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	3/20	3/21 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	3/22 **Buffet Lunch $14** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	3/23	3/24 **Buffet Lunch $14** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	3/25 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*
3/26 **Sunday Brunch $22** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	3/27	3/28 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	3/29 **Buffet Lunch $14** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	3/30	3/31 **Buffet Lunch $14** *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*	4/1 *Seafood & Sushi Night* *Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)*

"Dolphin Restaurant" *(10th floor of Crystal Tower in Grandvrio Resort Saipan)*

has reopened as A-La-Carte restaurant. Welcome to enjoy fast & nice Lunch Menu ($8~) and authentic Japanese Shabu Shabu or Sukiyaki for your dinner ($35). "Spectacular Ocean view and Sunset!" Starting from Nov. 07, 2016, our Dolphin restaurant brings out "Daily Chef's Special Lunch" from Mon. to Fri.; **EVERYTHING IS DIFFERENT!**$12 only, 15 servings per day; "First In First Out!" Opening time: Everyday Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm Last Order: 1:30pm / Dinner 5:30pm-9:00pm Last Order : 8:30pm

"Starlight BBQ" Dinner Buffet Location:

Poolside Price: Reg. AD $39 CH: $19
(Local: AD $35/ CH $17)
Business hrs: 6:00pm-9:00pm
Menu: " All you can eat & drink" - beers, red & white wine, soft drinks, oolong tea and juices.

AIRI COFFEE LOUNGE

Lounge Business hrs: 10:00am-6:00pm

Come and taste delicious curry & sandwich set ($7.00 only), cake, café latte, organic smoothies… with unique ocean view. Pizza Set ($10.00) Available Now!

POOL SIDE BAR

Business Hrs: 1pm - 10pm
Last Order: 9:30pm
"Happy Hours" 4pm-7pm
20% discount available for all drinks including cocktails.

For reservation or inquiry, please call: 670-237-2527 or E-mail: food.beverage@grandvrio-saipan.com

Business

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Hard times for Sears as retailer notes doubt about future

NEW YORK (AP)—Sears, a back-to-school shopping destination for generations of kids, has said that after years of losing money that there is "substantial doubt" it will be able to keep its doors open. But it also insisted that its actions to turn around its business should help reduce that risk. It was still a dramatic acknowledgment from the chain that owns Sears and Kmart stores, which has long held fast to its stance that a turnaround is possible, even as many of its shoppers have moved on to Wal-Mart, Target or Amazon. Sears has survived of late mainly with millions in loans funneled through the hedge fund of Chairman and CEO Edward Lampert, but with sales fading it is burning through cash. Sears Holdings Corp. said late Tuesday it lost more than $2 billion last year.

Indexes inch back upward as tech stocks rise; Nike plunges

NEW YORK (AP)—After a shaky start, U.S. stocks finished mostly higher Wednesday as technology and industrial companies rose. Banks fell with interest rates as the market came off its biggest loss in five months. Stocks started lower, then rallied around midday and wandered between gains and losses for several hours before a late-afternoon push. Technology companies led the market, as they've done throughout this year. Gains for shipping company FedEx helped take industrial companies upward. Nike took its biggest one-day loss in five years as investors were disappointed by its quarterly sales and outlook, and 130-year-old retailer Sears plunged after it said it may not be able to stay in business.

Labor nominee says he won't let politics influence hiring

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump's nominee to lead the Labor Department said Wednesday he won't allow potential political pressure from the administration to influence his hiring decisions and regrets he let that happen on his watch at the Justice Department. But Alexander Acosta, testifying before the Senate Health, Labor, Education and Pensions Committee, said little about what he would do about overtime pay and other issues if confirmed for the job. He would be the first Hispanic member of Trump's Cabinet and is Trump's second choice for the post, after fast food CEO Andrew Puzder withdrew his name. Ultimately, Acosta said, the president would be his "boss."

Leaders need votes for health bill on eve of House showdown

WASHINGTON (AP)—The top Republican legislative priority in peril, President Donald Trump dangled possible changes to the health care bill Wednesday aimed at placating conservatives threatening to torpedo the legislation. The White House seemed to make progress with the hardliners while House leaders struggled with moderates on eve of a showdown vote. Trump huddled at the White House with 18 lawmakers, a mix of supporters and opponents, Vice President Mike Pence saw around two dozen and House GOP leaders held countless talks with lawmakers at the Capitol. The sessions came as leaders rummaged for votes on a roll call they can ill-afford to lose without diminishing their clout for the rest of the GOP agenda.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9715 Facsimile (670)236-9702

Request for Proposals
17-JUDICIARY-02
Mold Assessment and Eradication Services for the Guma Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewee, House of Justice
Submission Date: March 31, 2017, 3:00 P.M.

The Commonwealth Judicial Branch is soliciting sealed proposals for janitorial services for the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewee/House of Justice, Saipan, for a period of one (1) year.

Firms or individuals submitting proposals must have a valid CNMI business license and be in compliance with applicable local and federal laws and regulations, including minimum wage requirements.

Proposal procedures shall comply with CNMI Procurement Regulations (NMIAC Title 70, Subchapter 30.3).

The proposal package will be available on **March 17, 2017** at the Cashier's Window, Guma Hustisia, Saipan, or by request faxed to (670) 236-9797 or emailed to John.Villagomez@justice.gov.mp.

A mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held on **March 27, 2017 at 10:30 a.m., local time** at the Guma Hustisia Law Revision Commission–Law Library. Any questions or inquiries shall be directed to Mr. Gerald Weaver, Building Superintendent, at the pre-proposal meeting and all questions will be answered at the mandatory pre-proposal meeting. Any questions or inquiries not raised at the mandatory pre-proposal meeting shall not be answered and shall be disregarded.

Sealed proposals must be marked **RFP17-JUDICIARY-02** and submitted in one (1) original and three (3) copies at the Cashier's Window, Guma Hustisia, Saipan no later than **March 31, 2017, 3:00 p.m., local time.** Firms or individuals submitting proposals from outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose to the Budget and Finance Director no later than March 30, 2017, 3:00 p.m., local time. Notices of Intent may be faxed to (670) 236-9797 or emailed to John.Villagomez@-justice.gov.mp. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and three (3) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 31, 2017,** AND the proposal must be received at the Office of the Budget and Finance Director no later than **April 7, 2017**, **close of business**.

The CNMI Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI Government. All proposals received shall become the property of the CNMI Government and will not be returned to the proposer.

/s/ Alexandro C. Castro
Chief Justice

/s/ John T. Villagomez
Budget and Finance Director

COMMONWEALTH LAW REVISION COMMISSION
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS JUDICIARY
House of Justice • Guma Hustisia • Iimwal Aweewe
P.O.Box 502179, Saipan, MP 96950-2179
Tel: (670) 236-9820 • Fax: (670) 236-9897 • E-Mail: cnmilaw@justice.gov.mp
http://www.cnmilaw.org

PUBLIC NOTICE

REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, March 30, 2017, 12:00 p.m.
Commonwealth Law Revision Commission Office
House of Justice/Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe
Susupe, Saipan

Agenda

1. **Preliminary Matters**
   a. Call to Order and Roll Call
   b. Meeting Notice (Compliance with Open Government Act, 1 CMC § 9901 et seq.)
   c. Final Approval of September 23, 2016 Meeting Minutes
2. **Executive Director's Report**
   a. Office & Staff Update
   b. Publications & Website
   c. Budget
3. **Old Business**
4. **New Business**
5. **Tentative Date for Next Meeting and Adjournment**

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
INVITATION TO BID
MVA-ITB-17-2001

LIFEGUARD, SECURITY, MAINTENANCE, AND CLEANING SERVICES AT SELECT TOURIST SITES
Submission Date: **March 27, 2017** Time: **3:00 p.m.**

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
P.O. Box 500861 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

A Mandatory Pre-proposal Conference which will be held on Friday, March 10, 2017 at 10:00 am in the MVA main conference room.

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the **Marianas Visitors Authority** office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting **MVA** website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
MVA Chair, Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher Concepcion
Managing Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel, (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax, (670) 234-9021 Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

Ralph DLG. Torres, Governor — Victor B. Hocog, Lt. Governor

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
THIS AD IS PAID FOR BY NMHC FUNDS.

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the agency authorized to allocate Low Incoming Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) in the CNMI. The United States 1986 Tax Reform Act created the federal low-income housing tax credit program under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code (Code) to assist with the development of low-income rental housing by providing qualified owners with credit to offset their federal tax obligations. The LIHTC is available to owners/developers of qualifying buildings and projects that meet certain low-income occupancy and rent restrictions.

Section 42 of the Code provides that the CNMI prepare a Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) to determine housing priorities and to give preference to projects serving the lowest income tenants and projects obligated to serve qualified tenants for the longest periods. The QAP must incorporate selection criteria, which includes project location, housing need characteristics, sponsor characteristics, tenant populations with special needs, and public housing waiting lists. NMHC has made amendments to the previous QAP's selection criteria, rights of NMHC, and fees.

NMHC will conduct a public hearing to solicit comments from the public on **April 17, 2017, 10:00 a.m.** at NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan. Copies of the draft **2017 and 2018** Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) are also available at NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan and on our website at www.nmhcgov.net.

Interested persons wishing to express their views on the QAP may do so either by attending the public hearing or by submitting comments to NMHC by 4:30 p.m. on April 17, 2017.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities or persons requiring interpreters upon prior notification. Should you require such arrangement, please contact Ms. Jocelyn Seman at telephone numbers 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2017

Opening Date: march 10, 2017 **Closing Date: April 07, 2017**

Position: (5) Ports Police Trainee (Saipan)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18-25 old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10 year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209 (d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office is no later than ***4:30 p.m., Friday, April 07, 2017.***

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except on holidays, at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport Terminal. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at cpa.personnel@pticom.com or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

PUBLIC AUCTION
SURPLUS CHAINLINK FENCING
PROJECT NO. CPA-PA-001-17

AUCTION DATE: MARCH 31, 2017 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

LOCATION: COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY SEAPORT BUILDING PREMISE

CHAINLINK FENCING WILL BE SOLD "AS IS" AND "WHERE IS" AND WITHOUT WARRANTY. MINIMUM BID WILL BE ANNOUNCE AT THE OPENING. BIDDERS ARE REQUESTED TO SEE THE MATERIALS BY CONTACTING JERRA CING AT CPA SEAPORT OFFICE AT TELEPHONE NUMBER 664-3560 DURING WORKING HOURS.

CHAIN LINK FENCE SHALL ONLY BE RELEASE TO BIDDERS UPON FULL PAYMENT.

AUCTION IS OPEN TO ALL BIDDERS

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: _____

Nation

For some airline passengers, new warnings bring new hurdles

NEW YORK (AP)—As far as the indignities of modern air travel go, the latest ban on laptops and tablets on some international flights falls somewhere between taking off shoes at the security checkpoint and testing baby food and milk for bomb residue.

It's yet another impediment in the name of security for already weary travelers, especially those from or passing through the 10 mostly Middle Eastern and North African countries covered by new U.S. and British policies. While not quite as disruptive as an outright ban on smartphones—much less a travel ban based on nationality—the restrictions loom large for some.

"Why are only Middle Eastern airlines subject to this ban?" asked Kelsey Norman, a doctoral student who plans to fly home Friday to Los Angeles from Beirut—and expects to have to check her laptop, a Kindle tablet and her DSLR camera. "Overall this policy is inconvenient, discriminatory, and continues to hurt America's rapidly deteriorating reputation globally."

BAN LOGIC

New restrictions from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security prohibit the transportation in carry-on baggage of laptop computers, tablets, Kindles, some gaming devices, cameras and other electronics larger than a smartphone. The U.S. government cited unspecified threats as the reason. The U.K. government instituted a similar ban; neither government's restrictions affect U.S. airlines.

People can still bring with them to their seat items like smartphones, duffel bags, coats, small bottles of hand lotion, snacks, earplugs and other small items.

LOST PRODUCTIVITY

Some, particularly business travelers, see the potential for theft, damage or compromised data if they are forced to check laptops. The anxiety is real enough that there were attempts to reroute flights to other airports immediately after the ban was announced.

Banu Akdenizli, a native of Turkey, said that being forced to fly 17 hours without her laptop will cost her precious time to work and to prepare for a conference.

"It might seem trivial to a lot of people, but what you get from these parts of the world are usually business travelers," said Akdenizli, an associate professor of communications at the Doha, Qatar, campus of Northwestern University.

For those who must, there are ways to do a limited amount of work without laptops, tablets or other electronics.

AWKWARD WORKAROUNDS

It is possible to transfer import documents to Google Docs and do some work on a smartphone. Features can be limited for some apps; Microsoft's Office app, for instance, allows users to open only one document at a time.

These apps are good enough for simple proofreading and minor editing, but will leave users wanting when more complex tasks are required. The text will also be small on smartphones, though there is a way to temporarily reformat it to accommodate smaller displays.

One simple task that can be done on a smartphone is communicating via email or cleaning up inboxes. In-flight Wi-Fi is required to send or receive emails.

If travelers need downtime, there is always Netflix or Amazon. Users can download content to a smartphone before leaving so that it's easily accessible.

RARE TAPESTRIES AP

A woman walks through an exhibit of tapestries at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York, Wednesday, March 22, 2017. Experts at the cathedral just spent 16 years sprucing up its super-size wall hangings with a labor-intensive process that uses dental probes, tweezers and other tools. Now the historic house of worship is inviting the public to enjoy the fruits of its labors. An exhibit called "The Barberini Tapestries, Scenes from the Life of Christ" runs through June 25.

ACROSS THE NATION

Boy told police plot to shoot girl started as 'crude joke'

LOGAN, Utah (AP)—Two teenage boys accused of wounding a girl with a gunshot to the head concocted the plan in small-town Utah while playing video games and discussing their desire to "get rid" of the girl who was sending messages to one of them, authorities said. "I just didn't want anything to do with Snapchatting her anymore," one of the 16-year-old boys said, according to a statement he gave to police that was read aloud in juvenile court Tuesday. "Well, you've got a 6-inch blade, why don't you do it yourself," his friend replied. The first boy said he first thought it was a "crude joke" but they kept plotting and settled on a plan that called for him to slit 14-year-old Deserae Turner's throat, the statement said. He could not go through with it, so instead he shot her in the back of the head in an isolated ditch behind a high school using a gun he grabbed from underneath his brother's mattress, police said.

Jury decides death penalty for man, 24, in Las Vegas killing

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A jury in Las Vegas decided a 24-year-old man should become the youngest person on Nevada's death row for the 2011 rape, killing and mutilation of a 15-year-old girl who had texted her mother to say she was on her way home after fetching a school book. Javier Righetti was 19 when Alyssa Otremba disappeared and searchers found her charred body the next day in a vacant lot not far from her home in northwest Las Vegas. His court-appointed attorney, Christy Craig, declined Wednesday to comment on the verdict, which was read late Tuesday in Clark County District Court. Craig had sought life in prison without parole, and Righetti apologized to people he acknowledged he hurt.

Mom: Teen daughter afraid to come home after Chicago attack

CHICAGO (AP)—The mother of a 15-year-old girl who authorities say was sexually assaulted in an attack streamed live on Facebook said Wednesday that her daughter has received online threats since it happened and that neighborhood kids have been joking about it and harassing her family. The woman was reunited with her daughter on Tuesday, two days after the girl went missing and a day after police learned of the attack. She said her daughter is staying with a relative and is scared to come home, and that she shares that fear. "This is just disturbing and to think the kids think it is funny," the mother, 32, told The Associated Press. The AP isn't naming her to protect the identity of her daughter.

Police officer, 3 others killed in Wisconsin town

WESTON, Wis. (AP)—A police officer and three other people were shot and killed when a domestic dispute at a bank escalated into shootings at three locations in northern Wisconsin on Wednesday, investigators said. A suspect was in custody. The shootings happened at a bank, a law firm and an apartment complex, where officers, including a SWAT team, had a standoff with the suspect for several hours before ending in a volley of gunfire around 5 p.m. Authorities took no questions in a brief news conference late Wednesday and gave no details on the four victims or suspect. They said there was no remaining threat to the public. Jason Smith, a deputy administrator for the state Department of Justice's Division of Criminal Investigation, said more than 100 officers were investigating and more information would be released Thursday.

Police: White sword killer went to NY to attack black people

NEW YORK (AP)—A white U.S. Army veteran from Baltimore bent on making a racist attack took a bus to New York, the "media capital of the world," randomly picked out a black man who was collecting bottles on the street and killed him with a sword, police said Wednesday. James Harris Jackson turned himself in at a Times Square police station early Wednesday, about 25 hours after Timothy Caughman staggered into a police precinct bleeding to death. "I'm the person that you're looking for," Jackson told police, according to Assistant Chief William Aubrey. Jackson, who was arrested on suspicion of murder, told police he'd harbored feelings of hatred toward black men for at least 10 years, authorities said. He traveled to New York on March 17 and had been staying in a Manhattan hotel.

Less-educated middle-age US whites dying younger than others

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Middle-age white Americans with limited education are increasingly dying younger, on average, than other middle-age U.S. adults, a trend driven by their dwindling economic opportunities, research by two Princeton University economists has found. The economists, Anne Case and Angus Deaton, argue in a paper released Thursday that the loss of steady middle-income jobs for those with high school degrees or less has triggered broad problems for this group. They are more likely than their college-educated counterparts, for example, to be unemployed, unmarried or afflicted with poor health. Those dynamics helped fuel the rise of President Donald Trump, who won widespread support among whites with only a high school degree.

Asia

China says no monitoring station on disputed island

BEIJING (AP)—China is not building an environmental monitoring station on a disputed South China Sea shoal, the foreign ministry said Wednesday, apparently denying remarks made by a local official last week.

The Philippines, which also claims the shoal, had sought a clarification from Beijing.

Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said reports about the facility on Scarborough Shoal had been checked and were found to be false.

"That does not exist at all," Hua told reporters at a regularly scheduled news briefing.

The official Hainan Daily newspaper had quoted the top official in Sansha City, which administers China's island claims, as saying that preparatory work on the station was among the government's top priorities for 2017.

Such a move would likely renew concerns among Beijing's neighbors over its assertive territorial claims in the sea. Calls to Sansha government offices rang unanswered Wednesday.

Beijing seized tiny, uninhabited Scarborough in 2012 after a tense standoff with Philippine vessels. Manila said Wednesday it had asked for a clarification of the earlier remarks by Shansha Communist Party head Xiao Jie.

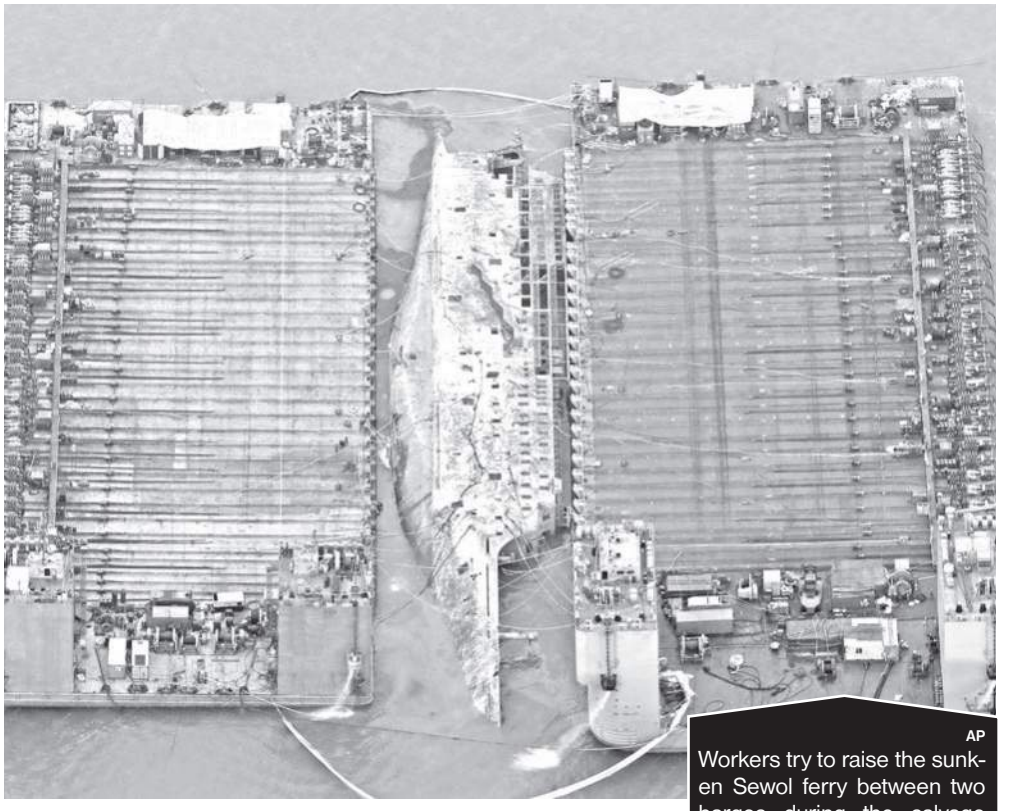
Acting Philippine Foreign Secretary Enrique Manalo told Filipino reporters in the Thai capital, Bangkok, where President Rodrigo Duterte is visiting, that his department asked for clarification of the reported planned construction on Scarborough Shoal.

South Korean ferry that sank 3 years ago lifted from sea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A 6,800-ton South Korean ferry emerged from the water on Thursday, nearly three years after it capsized and sank into violent seas off the country's southwestern coast, an emotional moment for the country that continues to search for closure to one of its deadliest disasters ever.

More than 300 people—most of whom were students on a high school trip—died when the Sewol sank on April 16, 2014, touching off an outpouring of national grief and soul searching about long-ignored public safety and regulatory failures. The public outrage over what was seen as a botched rescue job by the government contributed to the recent ouster of Park Geun-hye as president.

Workers on two barges began the salvaging operation Wednesday night, rolling up 66 cables connected to a frame of metal beams divers spent months putting beneath the ferry, which had been lying on its left side in about 40 meters (130 feet) of water.



AP
Workers try to raise the sunken Sewol ferry between two barges during the salvage operation in waters off Jindo, South Korea, Thursday, March 23, 2017.

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500237, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857 • Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856
Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled a meeting on Wednesday, March 29, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library (Technology Room) in Susupe, Saipan.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

I. **PRELIMINARIES:**
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of Minutes – February 16 & 17, 2017

II. **REPORTS:**
- A. Report by the Chairman
- B. Report by the Executive Director

III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

IV. **OLD BUSINESS**
- A. Revenue Sharing Option & Rebate Agreement – Request for Approval
- B. Extension of the Individual Casino Rebate Program – Request for Approval
- C. Waiver of the Minimum Bankroll Requirements – Request for Approval
- D. Foreign Casino Chips: Hong Kong Chips – Request for Approval

V. **NEW BUSINESS:**
- A. Notification of Provisional Casino Key Employee ("CKE") License:
  1. Mr. Charles Toland Meredith ("Chuck") - Senior Vice President for Legal: Issued on 03/20/17
  2. Mr. Hau Yee Chung ("Tommy") - Vice President for Casino Credit and Collection: Issued on 02/21/17
- B. Notification of Casino Provisional Vendor License (Non-Gaming):
  1. DR Safety & Environmental Consultants: Issued on 03/14/17
  2. Giesecke & Devrient Asia Pacific Limited: Issued on 02/21/17
  3. Global Hotelware Limited: Issued on 03/17/17
  4. MizziSoft Pty. Ltd.: Issued on 03/20/17
  5. Xerox Corporation: Issued on 03/21/17
- C. Notification of Casino Provisional Service Provider License (Gaming):
  1) Long Data Technology Limited. Issued on 03/17/17
- D. Notification of Provisional Casino Junket Operator License:
  1) Zhang, Hong. Bula Mula, LLC
- E. Notification of Approval to Go Live: 90-Day Approvals:
  1) Dallmeier CCTV Camera and Monitoring System
  2) International Game Technology (IGT) System
- F. Proposed Changes to the Casino Regulations and Others – Amendment to the Casino License Agreement

VI. **MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:**
- A. Updates from IPI:
  1. Construction Progress – Imperial Pacific Resort & Hotel
  2. Soft Opening Program Updates
  3. Updated IPI Organizational Chart
  4. Status and updates on IPI's Bond Issuance or Loan Agreements
  5. Personnel Training and Recruitment Efforts
  6. Responsible Gaming Program
  7. Status of DPAC
  8. Amendment of Casino License Agreement

VII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**
- A. Report by the Legal Counsel
- B. IPI Financial Matters

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day or more if necessary.

/s/ Juan M. Sablan
Chairman

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-17-021

IFET DRIVE 4-INCH WATERLINE PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Ifet Drive 4-Inch Waterline Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of new installation of new 4-inch & 6-inch distribution lines and tapping to existing mains. The work also includes the installation of new flush hydrant, new water lateral connections, relocation and reconnection of existing water meters and asphalt pavement restoration, etc. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **120 calendar days** from date of award of contract

This project is funded by a grant from the United Sates of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **March 29, 2017** at **10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-17-021, Ifet Drive 4-Inch Waterline Project" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 05, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 31, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Administrative Support Assistant – marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Thompson Law, LLC
Colin M. Thompson, F0221
J.E. Tenorio Building
PMB 917 Box 10001
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
Telephone: (670) 233-0777
Facsimile: (670) 233-0776

Attorney for Administratrix

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF JOSE MANIBUSAN CAMACHO, Decedent.

CIVIL ACTION NO.: 17-0082 CV

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR RULE 11& 16 COM.R.PRO.

Date: April 6, 2017, Thursday
Time: 9:00 am
Judge: Joseph N. Camacho

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Rosie O. Camacho, filed a Petition in the Superior Court praying that she appointed Administratrix of the Estate of Jose Manibusan Camacho, deceased to determine the heirs of the decedent and distribute any assets of decedent. The attorney of record is Colin M. Thompson, at PMB 917, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950.

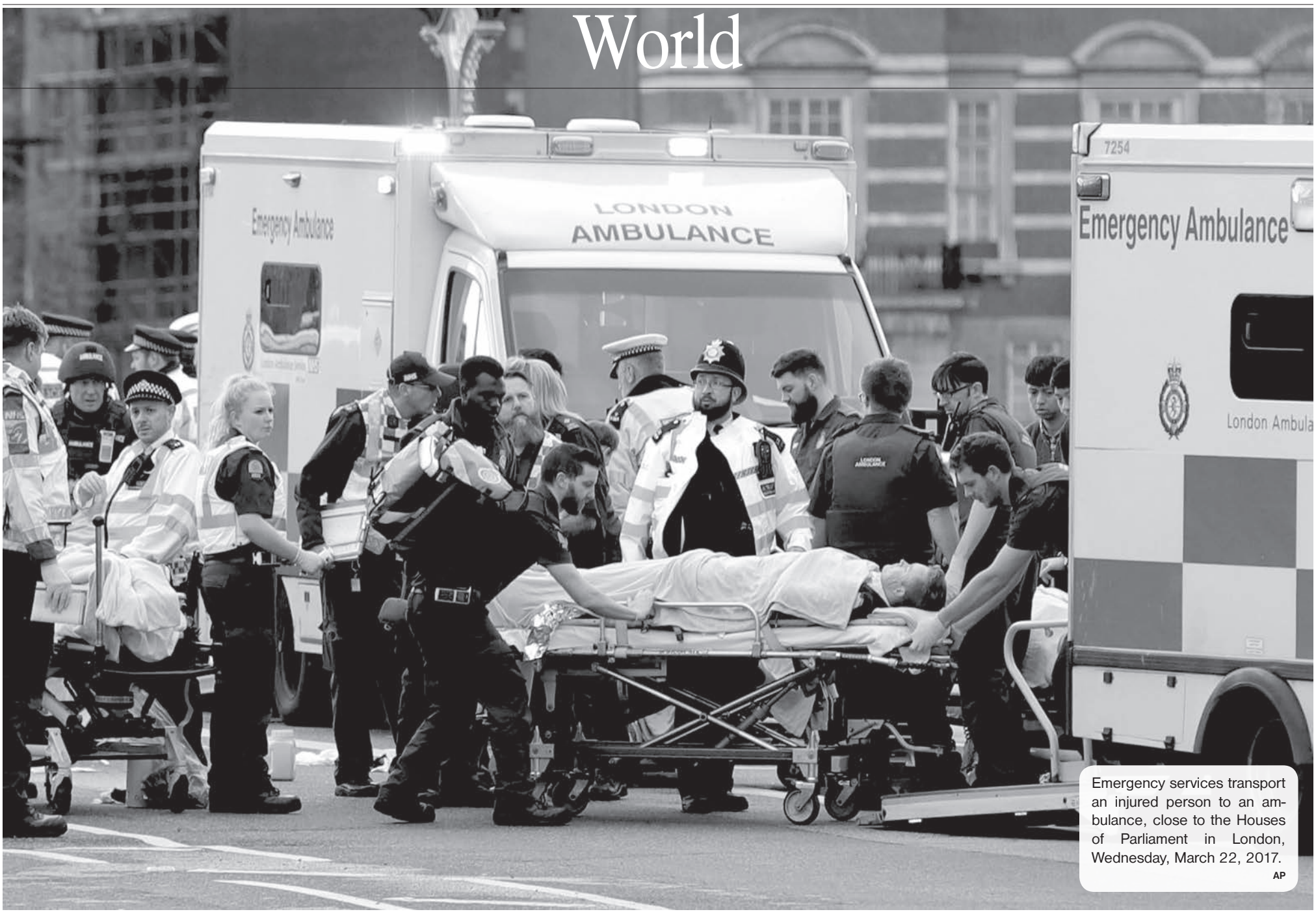
The hearing on the Petition is set for April 6, 2017, in a courtroom of the Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan, at 9:00 a.m. All interested person should appear at this hearing.

All person having claims against the estate, or against the decedent should file their claims with the Clerk of Court for the Superior Court within sixty (60) days after the first publication of this notice.

Dated this 21st day of March, 2017.

By: Deputy Clerk of Court

World



Emergency services transport an injured person to an ambulance, close to the Houses of Parliament in London, Wednesday, March 22, 2017.
AP

5 dead in vehicle, knife attack at British Parliament

LONDON (AP)—A knife-wielding man went on a deadly rampage in the heart of Britain's seat of power Wednesday, plowing a car into pedestrians on London's Westminster Bridge before stabbing a police officer to death inside the gates of Parliament. Five people were killed, including the assailant, and 40 others were injured in what Prime Minister Theresa May condemned as a "sick and depraved terrorist attack."

Lawmakers, lords, staff and visitors were locked down after the man was shot by police within the perimeter of Parliament, just yards (meters) from entrances to the building itself and in the shadow of the iconic Big Ben clock tower. He died, as did three pedestrians on the bridge, and the police officer.

A doctor who treated the wounded from the bridge said some had "catastrophic" injuries. Three police officers, several French teenagers on a school trip, two Romanian tourists and five South Korean visitors were among the injured.

Police said they were treating the attack as terrorism. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Metropolitan Police counterterrorism chief Mark Rowley said police believed there was only one attacker, "but it would be foolish to be overconfident early on." He said an unarmed policeman, three civilians and the attacker died. Forty others, including three police officers, were injured.

Islamic extremism was suspected in the attack, Rowley said, adding that authorities believe they know the assailant's identity but would not reveal it while the investigation was ongoing.

The threat level for international terrorism in the U.K. was already listed at severe, meaning an attack was "highly likely."

Speaking outside 10 Downing St. after chairing a meeting of government's emergency committee, COBRA, May said that level would not change. She said attempts to defeat British values of democracy and freedom through terrorism would fail.

"Tomorrow morning, Parliament will meet as normal," she said. Londoners and visitors "will all move forward together, never giving in to terror and never allowing the voices of hate and evil to drive us apart."

U.S. President Donald Trump was among world leaders offering condolences, and in Paris, the lights of the Eiffel Tower were to be dimmed in solidarity with London.

London has been a target for terrorism many times over past decades. Just this weekend, hundreds of armed police took part in an exercise simulating a "marauding" terrorist attack on the River Thames.

Wednesday was the anniversary of suicide bombings in the Brussels airport and subway that killed 32 people last year, and the latest events echoed recent vehicle attacks in Berlin and Nice, France.

In the House of Commons, legislators were holding a series of votes on pensions when deputy Speaker Lindsay Hoyle announced that the sitting was being suspended and told lawmakers not to leave.

Parliament was locked down for several hours, and the adjoining Westminster subway station was shuttered.

Conservative lawmaker Tobias Ellwood, whose brother was killed in the Bali terror attack in 2002, performed first aid on the wounded police officer, who later died. About 10 yards away lay the assailant.

"I tried to stem the flow of blood and give mouth to mouth while waiting for the medics to arrive but I think he had lost too much blood," Ellwood said. "He had multiple wounds, under the arm and in the back."

The attack began early Wednesday afternoon as a driver in a gray SUV slammed into pedestrians on the bridge linking Parliament to the south bank of the River Thames.

Former Polish foreign minister Radek Sikorski was in a car crossing the bridge when he heard "something like a car hitting metal sheet" and then saw people lying on the pavement.

"I saw one person who gave no signs of life. One man was bleeding from his head. I saw five people who were at least seriously injured," Sikorski told Poland's TVN24.

Ambulances arrived within minutes to treat people who lay scattered along the length of the bridge. One bloodied woman lay surrounded by a scattering of postcards.

Police said one injured woman was pulled from the river.

The car crashed into railings on the north side of the bridge, less than 200 yards (meters) from the entrance to Parliament. As people scattered in panic, witnesses saw a man holding a knife run toward the building.

"The whole crowd just surged around the corner by the gates just opposite Big Ben," said witness Rick Longley. "A guy came past my right shoulder with a big knife and just started plunging it into the policeman. I have never seen anything like that. I just can't believe what I just saw."

The attacker managed to get past a gate into Parliament's fenced-in New Palace Yard, a cobbled courtyard in the shadow of the Big Ben clock tower.

Daily Mail journalist Quentin Letts said a man in black attacked the police officer before being shot two or three times as he tried to storm into the building.

"As this attacker was running towards the entrance two plain-clothed guys with guns shouted at him what sounded like a warning, he ignored it and they shot two or three times and he fell," Letts told the BBC.

The attacker fell to the cobbles just yards from the entrance to 1,000-year-old Westminster Hall, the oldest part of the parliamentary complex, busy with visitors and school groups. Beyond that, a corridor leads to the building's Central Lobby, flanked by House of Commons and House of Lords chambers.

The prime minister was among lawmakers near the Commons at the time of the attack, and was quickly ushered away by security officers and driven back to Downing Street.

To get that far, the attacker would have had to evade the armed officers who patrol the Parliament complex in pairs, as well as Parliament's own security staff, who don't carry guns.

The attack unfolded near some of the city's most famous tourist sites, including the London Eye, a large Ferris wheel with pods that overlook the capital. It was halted after the attack, stranding visitors in the pods, with an aerial view of the attack scene.

London Ambulance Service said medics treated 12 people for serious injuries and eight who were less seriously hurt.

Dr. Colleen Anderson of St. Thomas' Hospital said some of the wounded had "catastrophic" injuries.

The French Foreign Ministry said that three students on a school trip from Saint-Joseph in the Brittany town of Concarneau were among the injured. Two Romanians were also among the injured, the country's Foreign Ministry said.

U.S. President Donald Trump spoke with May by telephone and applauded "the quick response of British police and first responders," spokesman Sean Spicer said.

London has often been the target of terrorist attacks, from IRA campaigns in the 1970s and 80s to more recent Islamist plots.

Focus

Before Trump job, Manafort worked to aid Putin

WASHINGTON (AP)—Before signing up with Donald Trump, former campaign manager Paul Manafort secretly worked for a Russian billionaire with a plan to "greatly benefit the Putin Government," The Associated Press has learned. The White House attempted to brush the report aside Wednesday, but it quickly raised fresh alarms in Congress about Russian links to Trump associates.

Manafort proposed in a confidential strategy plan as early as June 2005 that he would influence politics, business dealings and news coverage inside the United States, Europe and former Soviet republics to benefit President Vladimir Putin's government, even as U.S.-Russia relations under Republican President George W. Bush grew worse.

Manafort pitched the plans to aluminum magnate Oleg Deripaska, a close Putin ally with whom Manafort eventually signed a $10 million annual contract beginning in 2006, according to interviews with several people familiar with payments to Manafort and business records obtained by the AP. Manafort and Deripaska maintained a business relationship until at least 2009, according to one person familiar with the work.

"We are now of the belief that this model can greatly benefit the Putin Government if employed at the correct levels with the appropriate commitment to success," Manafort wrote in the 2005 memo to Deripaska. The effort, Manafort wrote, "will be offering a great service that can re-focus, both internally and externally, the policies of the Putin government."

White House spokesman Sean Spicer said Wednesday that President Trump had not been aware of Manafort's work on behalf of Deripaska.

"To suggest that the president knew who his clients were from 10 years ago is a bit insane," Spicer said. He noted the AP's reporting "has started to catch a lot of buzz" but said Manafort's work occurred long before he became Trump's campaign chairman.

"I don't know what he got paid to do," Spicer said, adding, "There's no suggestion he did anything improper."

Manafort's plans were laid out in detailed documents obtained by the AP that included strategy memoranda and records showing international wire transfers for millions of dollars. How much work Manafort performed under the contract was unclear. The work appears to contradict assertions by the Trump administration and Manafort himself that he never worked for Russian interests.

Manafort confirmed again Wednesday in a statement that he had worked for Deripaska but denied his work had been pro-Russian in nature. He added, "I look forward to meeting with those conducting serious investigations of these issues."

An official representative of Deripaska said simply in a statement Wednesday: "There was an agreement between Mr. Deripaska and Mr. Manafort to provide investment consulting services related to business interests of Mr Deripaska which now is a subject to legal claims."

The disclosures come as Trump campaign advisers are the subject of an FBI probe and two congressional investigations, and they appear to guarantee that Manafort will be sought as a key witness in

Continued on Next Page

AP

People walk past a caricature picture of U.S. President Donald Trump on sale in a shopping mall in Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, March 22, 2017. President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, secretly worked for a Russian billionaire to advance the interests of Russian President Vladimir Putin a decade ago and proposed an ambitious political strategy to undermine anti-Russian opposition across former Soviet republics, The Associated Press has learned.

Century Tours, Inc.
invites qualified U.S. worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Accounting Manager (1)
College degree in finance, accounting, economics, or business administration and 5 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 3 years experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management activities. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills to manage people. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft software. Excellent customer service skills. Knowledge of standard office equipment. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Accountant (1)
Associates or Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Auditing, Business Management or Finance with at least 2-3 years bookkeeping or clerical accounting prior work experience in tour operation, sales, or service related work. Must be able to operate computers programmed with accounting software (Microsoft Office applications such as Word Processor and Spreadsheet, and Accounting software such as SAP-R3 FICO [Financial and Controlling] system, ERP system, and HR2 system) to record, store, and analyze information. Flexible under pressure and able to work independently with detailed projects with an aptitude to learn new skills. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Accounting Assistant (1)
High School graduate or a GED Certificate. Some related work experience in tour operation, sales or service related work is preferred. Must be proficient with Microsoft Office applications such as Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel; and proficient with Accounting software such as the SAP-R3 FICO (Financial and Controlling) and POS-RMS (Point of Sale) systems to record, store, and analyze information. Flexible under pressure. High attention to detail. Able to work independently with detailed projects. Has an aptitude for learning. Must be able and willing to work evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications to ceti_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than 5:00 PM on March 29, 2017. Applications for Employment are available at the Front Office of Saipan Adventures Inc. located on the Ground Floor of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Century Tours, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

SALES REPRESENTATIVE - HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

A minimum of 3 years work related experience required with a successful, proven sales record. Ideally with an Associate's Degree in Sales & Marketing or related field with experience in F&B, menu preparation & costing. Must be able to lift 50lbs. Ideally would have understanding of wine distribution. Makes outside sales calls to established customers and cold calls to potential customers. Coordinates deliveries. Researches potential products from experience, menu content or health requirements. Proficient in MS Excel, Word, Outlook. Ability to speak Mandarin, Cantonese, Japanese or Korean an advantage. Must have a valid driver's license. Availability to work evenings, holidays and weekends is also required.

Interested applicants must have their own reliable transportation. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

ACCOUNTANT

BA in Accounting and a minimum of 3 years experience is required, including preparation of financial statements, processing accounts receivables & payables and other general accounting procedures. Must possess work-related skills, have knowledge & experience in purchasing, inventory control and bank reconciliation. Proficient in various computer software: MS Excel, Word, Outlook and SAGE or similar accounting system. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Interested applicants may submit an application and/or resume at our Saipan office located in the C.T.S.I. building, Lower Base, by April 7, 2017. Applications may also be sent to: mpk@dandq-international.com. The successful applicant will be required to provide a police clearance.

D&Q is an equal opportunity employer and has a drug free work environment. Pre-employment and random drug testing may be required.

STRATEGIC GAMING SOLUTIONS, INC.
is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Finance Manager (1)
Bachelor degree in Accounting, Business Administration or related area. Three (3) or four (4) years experience in accounting, management of financial systems and budgets, financial reporting, financial data analysis and forecasting, auditing, taxation and providing financial advice preferably in the gaming industry. Must be extremely number-oriented and computer literate with superior spreadsheet skills, proficiency in SAP Accounting Software and Excel highly preferred.

Head Cook (1)
Must have a high school diploma or equivalent plus two (2) to three (3) years of work experience as a cook in a restaurant or hotel. Preferably with experience in Western, Japanese and Chinese cuisine. Must be willing to work shifts, holidays and weekends.

Cook (1)
Must have a high school diploma or equivalent plus two (2) years of work experience as a cook in a restaurant or hotel. Preferably with experience in Western, Japanese and Chinese cuisine. Must be willing to work shifts, holidays and weekends.

Food & Beverage Team Leader (1)
Must have a high school diploma or equivalent plus three (3) to five (5) years of work experience as a Food and Beverage Team Leader in a Hotel or Restaurant. Must have knowledge of Micros (POS) and is able to formulate systems and procedures for the operations of the Bar, Restaurant and Kitchen.

Interested applicants may pick up an application at our HR Office located within Kanoa Resort, Susupe Beach Road from Monday to Friday between the hour of 10:30am to 5:30pm. Applications must be supported with resume and certificates. Last day of submission of application is March 27, 2017.

Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

R.E.A.L. Corporation
Is looking for

- (1) General Manager
- (12) Carpenters
- (12) Masons
- (2) Electrician
- (2) Plumbers
- (4) Seamstress

Interested applicants may e-mail remypamintuan@gmail.com for more information.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

upcoming hearings. Investigators are reviewing whether the Trump campaign and its associates coordinated with Moscow to meddle in the 2016 campaign. Manafort has dismissed the investigations as politically motivated and misguided. The documents obtained by AP show Manafort's ties to Russia were closer than previously revealed.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., called the disclosures "serious stuff" and more evidence that an independent congressional committee should investigate the Trump administration. "Other shoes will drop," he said.

Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, a frequent Trump critic, said of Manafort: "Clearly, if he's getting millions of dollars from a billionaire close to Putin, to basically undermine democratic movements, that's something I'd want to know about. I doubt if Trump knew about it."

Democrats on the House intelligence committee said the new revelations will feature in their investigations.

The disclosure "undermines the groundless assertions that the administration has been making that there are no ties between President Trump and Russia. This is not a drip, drip, drip," said Rep. Jackie Speier of California. "This is now dam-breaking with water flushing out with all kinds of entanglements."

Deripaska became one of Russia's wealthiest men under Putin, buying assets abroad in ways widely perceived to benefit the Kremlin's interests. U.S. diplomatic cables from 2006 described him as "among the 2-3 oligarchs Putin turns to on a regular basis" and "a more-or-less permanent fixture on Putin's trips abroad." In response to questions about Manafort's consulting firm, a spokesman for Deripaska in 2008—at least three years after they began working together—said Deripaska had never hired the firm. Another Deripaska spokesman in Moscow last week declined to answer AP's questions.

Manafort worked as Trump's unpaid campaign chairman last year from March until August, a period that included the Republican National Convention that nominated Trump in July. Trump asked Manafort to resign after AP revealed that he had orchestrated a covert Washington lobbying operation until 2014 on behalf of Ukraine's ruling pro-Russian political party.

The newly obtained business records link Manafort more directly to Putin's interests in the region. According to those records and people with direct knowledge of Manafort's work for Deripaska, Manafort made plans to open an office in Moscow, and at least some of his work in Ukraine was directed by Deripaska, not local political interests there. The Moscow office never opened.

Manafort has been a leading focus of the U.S. intelligence investigation of Trump's associates and Russia, according to a U.S. official. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because details of the investigation are confidential. Meanwhile, federal criminal prosecutors became interested in Manafort's activities years ago as part of a broad investigation to recover stolen Ukraine assets after the ouster of pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovych there in early 2014. No U.S. criminal charges have ever been filed in the case.

FBI Director James Comey, in confirming to Congress the federal intelligence investigation this week, declined to say whether Manafort was a target. Manafort's name was mentioned 28 times during the hearing of the House intelligence committee, mostly about his work in Ukraine. No one mentioned Deripaska.

On Monday, Spicer had said Manafort "played a very limited role for a very limited amount of time" in the presidential campaign, even though he was Trump's campaign chairman. Spicer on Wednesday said further that Manafort was hired to oversee the campaign's delegate operation. "To be clear, he got the job done on the delegates," Spicer said.

Manafort and his associates remain in Trump's orbit. Manafort told a colleague this year that he continues to speak with Trump by telephone. Manafort's former business partner in eastern Europe, Rick Gates, has been seen inside the White House on a number of occasions, helped plan Trump's inauguration and now runs a nonprofit organization, America First Policies, to back the White House agenda.

Gates, whose name does not appear in the documents, told the AP that he joined Manafort's firm in 2006 and was aware Manafort had a relationship with Deripaska but was not aware of the work described in the memos. Gates said his work was focused on domestic U.S. lobbying and political consulting in Ukraine at the time. He said he stopped working for Manafort's firm in March 2016 when he joined Trump's presidential campaign.

Manafort told Deripaska in 2005 that he was pushing policies as part of his work in Ukraine "at the highest levels of the U.S. government—the White House, Capitol Hill and the State Department," according to the documents. He also said he had hired a "leading international law firm with close ties to President Bush to support our client's interests," but he did not identify the firm. Manafort also said he was employing unidentified legal experts for the effort at leading universities and think tanks, including Duke University, New York University and the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Manafort

Manafort did not disclose details about the lobbying work to the Justice Department during the period the contract was in place.

Under the Foreign Agents Registration Act, people who lobby in the U.S. on behalf of foreign political leaders or political parties must provide detailed reports about their actions to the department. Willfully failing to register is a felony and can result in up to five years in prison and a fine of up to $250,000, though the government rarely files criminal charges. "I don't know if he violated the Foreign Agent Registration Act," Sen. Graham said, "but it's something I think we all need to know more about."

Deripaska owns Basic Element Co., which employs 200,000 people worldwide in the agriculture, aviation, construction, energy, financial services, insurance and manufacturing industries, and he runs one of the world's largest aluminum companies. Forbes estimated his net worth at $5.2 billion. How much Deripaska paid Manafort in total is not clear, but people familiar with the relationship said money transfers to Manafort amounted to tens of millions of dollars and continued through at least 2009. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the secret payments publicly.

In strategy memos, Manafort proposed that Deripaska and Putin would benefit from lobbying Western governments, especially the U.S., to allow oligarchs to keep possession of formerly state-owned assets in Ukraine. He proposed building "long term relationships" with Western journalists and a variety of measures to improve recruitment, communications and financial planning by pro-Russian parties in the region.

Manafort proposed extending his existing work in eastern Europe to Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Georgia, where he pledged to bolster the legitimacy of governments friendly to Putin and undercut anti-Russian figures through political campaigns, nonprofit front groups and media operations.

For the $10 million annual contract, Manafort did not use his public-facing consulting firm, Davis Manafort. Instead, he used a company, LOAV Ltd., that he had registered in Delaware in 1992. He listed LOAV as having the same address as his lobbying and consulting firms in Alexandria, Virginia. In other records, LOAV's address was listed as Manafort's home, also in Alexandria. Manafort sold the home in July 2015 for $1.4 million. He now owns an apartment in Trump Tower in New York, as well as other properties in Florida and New York.

One strategy memo to Deripaska was written by Manafort and Rick Davis, his business partner at the time. In written responses to the AP, Davis said he did not know that his firm had proposed a plan to covertly promote the interests of the Russian government.

Davis said he believes Manafort used his name without his permission on the strategy memo. "My name was on every piece of stationery used by the company and in every memo prior to 2006. It does not mean I had anything to do with the memo described," Davis said. He took a leave of absence from the firm in late 2006 to work on Sen. McCain's 2008 presidential campaign.

Manafort's work with Deripaska continued for years, though they had a falling out laid bare in 2014 in a Cayman Islands bankruptcy court. The billionaire gave Manafort nearly $19 million to invest in a Ukrainian TV company called Black Sea Cable, according to legal filings by Deripaska's representatives. It said that after taking the money, Manafort and his associates stopped responding to Deripaska's queries about how the funds had been used.

Early in the 2016 presidential campaign, Deripaska's representatives openly accused Manafort of fraud and pledged to recover the money from him. After Trump earned the nomination, Deripaska's representatives said they would no longer discuss the case.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

†Venicia Taitano Suel

Lovingly known as "Sunshine"
February 28, 1975 – March 18, 2017
Was called home by Our Heavenly Father at the age of 42

In Her New Life, †Venicia will be met at the gate of heaven by Her:

Parents:	†Augustine I. and †Rita S. Taitano
Father In Law:	†Jeremiah Ricky Suel
Sister:	†Julita T. Palacios
Sister In Law:	†Barbara R. Suel
Grandparents/In Law:	†Oswald and +Josepha Sablan
	†Jose and †Maria Igitol
	†Daniel Repeki and †Maria T. Phillip

†Venicia's Love and Memories will forever remain in the hearts of Her:

Husband:	Daniel Roque R. Suel
Children:	Augustine Jeremiah T. Suel
	Daniel Roque T. Suel Jr.
	Daveanne Verina T. Suel
	Danica Divine T. Suel
Brothers, Sisters/Spouses:	Veronica and †Canice Q. Kapileo & children
	Peter Oliver S. Taitano & Danila S. Norita & children
	John Diego Palacios and children
	Mary Ann and Juan Mendiola & children
	Joseph Patrick S. Taitano & children
	Elaine and Henry Iguel & children
In Laws:	Preciliana R. Suel & children
	Fujiwara R. Suel & children
	Jeremiah Ricky R. Suel II and Erica Cabrera & children
	Jordan Mark R. Suel and Rellani B. Ogumoro

She will also be missed by numerous uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Daily Mass of intention is being offered at Santa Remedios Church at 6:00 p.m. followed by Holy Rosary at 7:00 p.m.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, March 25, 2017. Holy Rosary will be held at 10:00am and at 10:45am, our beloved †Venicia's remains will be transported from the CHCC Chapel to Santa Remedios Church. Responso Service will be at 11:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 1:00 p.m. followed by Internment Services at Tanapag Cemetery where she will be at peaceful rest.

Thank You and Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Daniel R. Suel / Children & Family

Off The Wall

That's not carry-on: Loose snake slumbers on Alaska flight

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Anna McConnaughy was flying to Alaska's largest city when the announcement came over the intercom: a passenger on a previous flight had brought a pet snake on board.

The passenger had gotten off the plane. The snake had not.

"The pilot came, and said, 'Guys, we have some loose snake on the plane, but we don't know where it is,'" McConnaughy said Tuesday.

Unlike the movie "Snakes On A Plane," this one wasn't venomous. Mostly, it was sleepy.

A little boy, one of seven passengers on the Ravn Alaska commuter flight Sunday from the Alaska village of Aniak to Anchorage, was climbing on his seat when he spotted the slumbering snake. It was lying partially covered by a duffel bag near the back of the plane.

"He said, 'Oh, Mom, look at this. What's that?'" McConnaughy said. "That's how we figured out there was a snake sleeping in the corner."

There was no panic. McConnaughy said. Mostly people wanted to see the snake.

A pilot came back to help, she said, leading to a short discussion with a flight attendant on how best to capture it.

"He said, 'I'll hold the bag, and you grab the snake,'" McConnaughy said. "Quite a gentleman."

The flight attendant grabbed the snake by the belly and dropped it into a plastic trash bag. It spent the rest of the flight in an overhead storage bin, and the plane reached Anchorage on schedule.

Anchorage television station KTVA first reported the incident.

McConnaughy's photos show a pale snake about 4 to 5 feet long. She said it appeared to want only to go back to sleep.

Indiana man gets 'ATHE1ST' license plate

ELKHART, Ind. (AP)—A man who was initially denied an Indiana license plate reading "ATHE1ST" now has the personalized plate.

The Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles denied Chris Bontrager's first request in February without citing a specific reason. The bureau's denial letter to Bontrager noted the agency could refuse a personalized plate if it had a connotation offensive to good taste or decency, was misleading or deemed improper.

Bontrager believed the decision was religiously motivated, and he filed an appeal with the state. He said the American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana helped the appeal process move quickly, without him having to testify before an appeals panel, The Elkhart Truth (http://bit.ly/2nS4DNZ) reported.

"My intention was never to litigate this matter," said Bontrager, who lives in Goshen. "I just felt that the process should be more transparent."

The effort culminated in him receiving the new license plate on Monday.

The BMV issued a short statement on Bontrager's case, affirming the state's ability to deny any plate at will. The American Civil Liberties Union didn't respond to the newspaper's request for comment.

Both the Indiana Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court have sided with the state's ability to decide whether a message on a personalized plate would be approved or denied, saying the messages amount to "government speech."

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Religious TV station in Senegal accidentally airs porn

DAKAR, Senegal (AP)—An Islamic television station in Senegal says it has filed a formal complaint against unknown saboteur "X" for taking over the network and airing pornography instead of its regularly scheduled religious programming. Viewers tuning into Touba TV on Monday afternoon got a shock when hardcore pornography was aired from 1:10 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Touba TV on Wednesday called the broadcasting blunder a "criminal act" and said the formal complaint will make it possible to identify the "authors who have an unknown agenda." The broadcaster said its viewers were offended, and it condemned the attempt as a "satanic move" to sabotage the values it advocates. The privately run station usually broadcasts religious programs advocating Islamic values and teachings, including sermons and prayers.

What a croc: Student busted for taking baby gators into taxi

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP)—What a croc! A student at a University of Maine campus is in trouble for taking his five baby pet alligators inside a taxicab. The pet reptiles began crawling around the cab Tuesday after a box tipped over. Cab driver Frank Folsom said he helped round the reptiles, each longer than a foot. The Kennebec Journal reports that 20-year-old University of Maine at Augusta student Yifan Sun from China received a summons because alligators are not allowed to be kept in Maine. The Augusta Police Department says he's charged with importing or possessing wildlife without a permit. Sun told police he kept the alligators as pets and was taking them with him to visit someone in Waterville. He declined to speak at length with a reporter from the newspaper.

Police: Man checks out of hospital, steals ambulance

EAST MEADOW, N.Y. (AP)—Authorities on Long Island say an 83-year-old man has been arrested after checking himself out of a hospital and stealing an ambulance. Police say Donald Winkler, of Merrick, was upset with the quality of care he was receiving and checked himself out of Nassau University Medical Center around 1 a.m. Tuesday. Investigators say Winkler then stole an ambulance from the hospital parking lot that had the keys in the ignition. Police say they later found the man at a nearby 7-Eleven. Investigators say he admitted to taking the ambulance. Winkler was arrested, taken back to the hospital for a psychiatric evaluation. Bail was set at $3,000 at a bedside arraignment. Winkler is charged with second-degree grand larceny. He is represented by Legal Aid, which does not comment on pending cases.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

† Vicente Matagolai Aldan

Born to Life: March 01, 1943 • Called to Eternal life: March 19, 2017

In his new life, he now joins his:

Father:	†Jose Castro Aldan
Mother:	†Rita Matagolai Aldan
Father In law:	†Calixto M. Reyes
Mother In law:	†Florentina C. Legaspi
Siblings:	†Victoria Aldan Dela Cruz
	†Ignatio Matagolai Aldan
	†Remedio Aldan Villagomez
	†Dolores Aldan Lizama
	†Alfred Matagolai Aldan
	†Josepha Matagolai Aldan
Grandchildren:	†Kirk C. Leon Guerrero
	†Judy Ann Aldan Palacios

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Wife: **Estelita R. Aldan**

Children and their families:
- **Velma D. Aldan**, Children and Grandchildren
- **Rita A.** & Vicente Santos, Children and Grandchildren
- **Joseph D.** & Lucretia T. Aldan, Children and Grandchildren
- **James D.** & Rufina T. Aldan and Children
- **Sean D.** & Cindy V. Aldan and Children
- **Antonette D.** & Troy M. Palacios, Children and Grandchildren
- **Sophia D.** Aldan & Petros Taisague and Children
- **Veronica D.** Aldan & Joseph J. Ojeda and Children

Reared Children:
- Charlie D. & Dolores C. Leon Guerrero, Children and Grandchildren
- Nicolas D. & Jackie C. Leon Guerrero, Children and Grandchildren
- Christopher D. & Frances P. Leon Guerrero, Children and Grandchildren
- Lillian C. Leon Guerrero
- Benwachi Taisacan
- Randy Rosario & Children
- Sonny Rosario
- Rex Rosario & Children
- Neil Matthew H. & Emiliana Agulto
- Viba H. Agulto & Patrick Navarro
- Emi H. Agulto & Felix Hofschneider
- Jessie H. & Jaime Agulto
- Neil Claithon Agulto & Rose Leon Guerrero
- Mel Rosa & Joe Rebuenog

He will also be greatly missed by his God-children, numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions for the repose of his soul is being celebrated each evening at St. Jude Church at 6:00 pm followed by Holy Rosary.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, March 30, 2017.
His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30 am to St Jude Church. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am followed by Interment service at Mt. Carmel Cemetery where he will be at a peaceful rest.
Please join us in prayers,
Thank you - Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Estelita R. Aldan, Children and Families

Science & Technology

Buying a turntable

By DON LINDICH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q. After a hiatus of many years I am ready to start listening to my vinyl record collection again, and hopefully digitize many albums to my computer, too. I have a very old Panasonic turntable that isn't working properly and would replace it with something I can hopefully hook up to my computer as well as my sound system. What would you recommend if I do not want to spend more than $400 to $500?—J.O., Atlantic City, N.J.

Audio-Technica AT-LP120-USB turntable. AUDIOTECHNICA.COM

A. I have a great recommendation for you, along with a background story to go with it.

One of my personal regrets is that most readers don't get a chance to experience how good vinyl really can be. Most turntables I recommend in the column sell for under $500 because that is where most of the public is shopping. While these turntables can certainly sound very good and bring a lot of enjoyment, they are limited in their ability to bring out the musical magic hidden in the grooves of a vinyl record. To bring that magic to the forefront you typically need a fairly expensive cartridge, which usually means a fairly expensive turntable to go with it.

That has changed with LP Gear's The Vessel A3SE cartridge, which I mentioned in a recent column. It is only $99 and though it lacks some detail and fullness compared to more expensive cartridges, even with these sins of omission I prefer it in many cases. I've described it as having, "sound that is silky-smooth, rich, clean, precise and detailed, with beautiful tonality from deepest bass to highest treble." Flowery words aside, it just plain sounds good and has that magic that keeps you coming back for more. Over the months I reviewed it I came to consider it a ringer that is many orders of magnitude better than any $99 cartridge I tried before. I even brought in some other experienced vinyl listeners to hear the cartridge so they could express their opinions and hopefully confirm my findings. Everyone agreed that it sounds surprisingly great for $99.

I've tried the cartridge with some very expensive as well as very affordable turntables and while it clearly sounds better on the higher-end turntables, you don't need a fancy rig for the cartridge to sing. It mates beautifully with affordable Japanese direct-drive turntables, delivering a musically engaging performance that belies the total price. LP Gear has apparently caught on to this and now offers the cartridge in an affordable, turnkey turntable package.

For $349 you get the popular Audio-Technica AT-LP120-USB turntable, an upgraded platter mat and The Vessel A3SE cartridge pre-installed and properly aligned for optimal performance. I think for a lot of people it could be their first and last turntable, and it will be easy and inexpensive to keep running, too. There is no belt to replace, and when the stylus wears out the replacement is only $79 and it plugs right in without any mounting or alignment hassles. The turntable has a built-in phono preamp for use with any sound system and a USB connection for transferring records to your computer. The performance and flexibility of this package can't be beat for $349 and I am excited to tell readers about it, knowing it will lead to the same kind of musical enjoyment I experience every day, but in their own homes at an affordable price. See it at http://tinyurl.com/120vessel (direct product link) or http://lpgear.com.

TECH Q&A

A Wi-Fi network with too many gadgets

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: I occasionally lose the email connections on my two Samsung Galaxy S7 smartphones when they are connected to my home Wi-Fi network. The network has a Linksys EA7500 router and a Comcast internet connection, and serves the two phones, a PC and a 4K digital TV (another PC uses a wired connection to the router.) Recently, the phones couldn't connect to their email accounts, although the two PCs could. I rebooted the phones and again set up their email accounts, but it didn't help. Later, the phones reconnected to email on their own. What's wrong?—Steve London, Plymouth, Minn.

A: You have too many data-hungry devices competing for too little internet capacity.

Streaming programs to your 4K TV is eating up most of the Wi-Fi bandwidth in your home. (For details on 4K TV, see tinyurl.com/jc5zygg.) Your two PCs are consuming most of the remaining internet capacity, via either Wi-Fi or cable. That leaves little Wi-Fi capacity for two phones to download email, even though mail typically doesn't contain much data.

You could either upgrade your Wi-Fi network, which can be expensive, or change the way you use your phones, which will cost little.

Upgrading: While you have a relatively new router, you might want to buy one that uses "802.11ac" technology, which will manage your existing Wi-Fi bandwidth more efficiently. Such routers cost $60 to $400 online (see tinyurl.com/8xjrafp). Alternatively, you could buy a faster internet connection, which in the long run will be more expensive than a new router.

Changing phone usage: The easiest solution is to let the phones update their email through the cellular network instead of connecting them to your home Wi-Fi. The small amount of information in email downloads isn't likely to overrun your phone data plan, and your Wi-Fi network will be free to perform its other tasks.

If you want to continue using the phones on the Wi-Fi network, you could minimize Wi-Fi data congestion by changing how often the phones download new email. For example, instead of having email updated automatically, you could set the mail app to update manually (only when you request it)—then do it when the TV isn't streaming data. To alter the Galaxy S7's email update settings, see tinyurl.com/le328q5.

Q: My Dell Vostro 1520 laptop, which I bought in 2010, has been running Windows 10. But the PC recently was unable to complete three software updates (a cumulative update for Windows 10, and updates for a graphics card and a printer.) As a result, it keeps rebooting in an effort to install the updates. What can I do?—Don Carvajal, New Orleans

A: Your seven-year-old PC should not have been upgraded to Windows 10 because of compatibility issues (see tinyurl.com/kjlgbea). While you were able to run Windows 10 initially, I suspect the latest updates won't work with your PC's hardware.

You can try to fix the problem by downloading Microsoft's "Windows Update Troubleshooter" program for Windows 10 (see tinyurl.com/jgkrtnd). If that doesn't work, your best options are to switch your PC to Windows 7 (still available online), or buy a new Windows 10 PC.

Google Maps already tracks you; now other people can, too

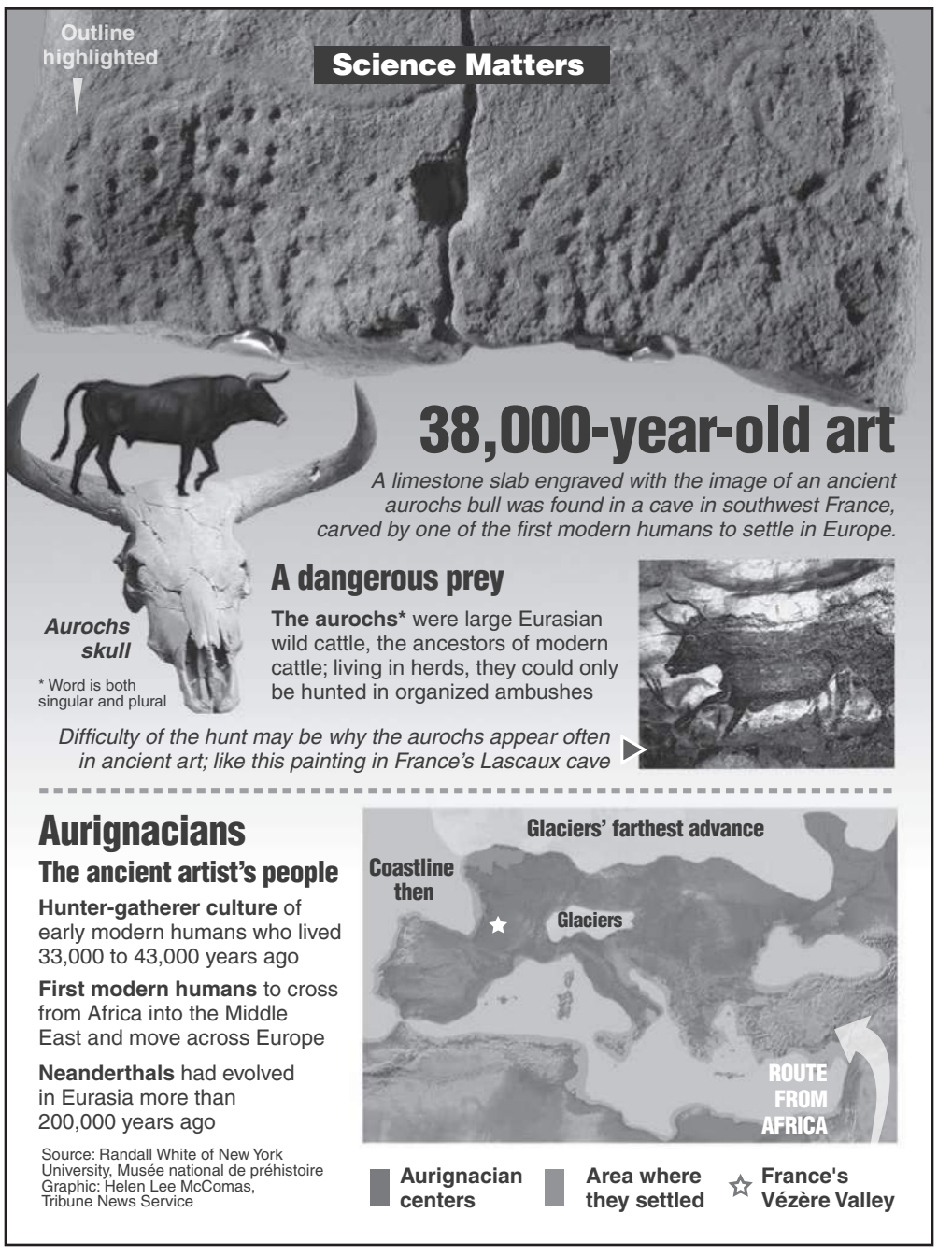
SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google Maps users will soon be able to broadcast their movements to friends and family—the latest test of how much privacy people are willing to sacrifice in an era of rampant sharing.

The location-monitoring feature will begin rolling out Wednesday in an update to the Google Maps mobile app, which is already installed on most of the world's smartphones. It will also be available on personal computers.

Google believes the new tool will be a more convenient way for people to let someone know where they are without having to text or call them. The Mountain View, California, company has set up the controls so individuals can decide with whom they want to share their whereabouts and for how long—anywhere from a few minutes to indefinitely.

But location sharing in one of the world's most popular apps could cause friction in marriages and other relationships if one partner demands to know where the other is at all times. Similar tensions could arise if parents insist their teenagers turn on the location-sharing option before they go out.

It could also be turned into a way to stalk someone entangled in an abusive relationship, warned Ruth Glenn, executive director for the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. "It has the potential to be another tool in an abuser's toolkit," she said.


Outline highlighted
Science Matters
38,000-year-old art
A limestone slab engraved with the image of an ancient aurochs bull was found in a cave in southwest France, carved by one of the first modern humans to settle in Europe.
Aurochs skull
* Word is both singular and plural
A dangerous prey
The aurochs* were large Eurasian wild cattle, the ancestors of modern cattle; living in herds, they could only be hunted in organized ambushes
Difficulty of the hunt may be why the aurochs appear often in ancient art; like this painting in France's Lascaux cave
Aurignacians
The ancient artist's people
Hunter-gatherer culture of early modern humans who lived 33,000 to 43,000 years ago
First modern humans to cross from Africa into the Middle East and move across Europe
Neanderthals had evolved in Eurasia more than 200,000 years ago
Source: Randall White of New York University, Musée national de préhistoire
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service
Glaciers' farthest advance
Coastline then
Glaciers
ROUTE FROM AFRICA
Aurignacian centers
Area where they settled
France's Vézère Valley

Life & Style

IPI training promotes image building and personal branding

Training in conjunction with hard work and discipline is the foundation of developing knowledgeable employees who are skillful in providing excellent customer service within the hospitality industry.

Imperial Pacific International's Corporate Learning and Development is committed to providing quality training for all colleagues. Each training is designed to build the skills and knowledge of each employee through courses relative to individual and departmental growth.

Jerry Young, director – Learning & Development of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC, explains, "Our programs are designed to meet the specific needs of an individual's job requirements and are intended for development throughout each colleague's career with the company. Our goal is to continue to create programs aimed to meet each colleague's needs so they can perform their job effectively. Their success is our success."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
IPI Corporate Learning and Development supervisor Monique Sablan shares her hair and make-up expertise with employees during the Image Building and Personal Branding training.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Jim Arenovski shares his expertise on how to b uild a professional and positive personal brand with IPI employees.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
IPI employees take turns trying out different make-up techniques during the Image Building and Personal Branding training.

IPI's Corporate Learning and Development Department launched their Image Building and Personal Branding training in February, with 31 employees eager to learn more about enhancing the quality of their look and personal brand within the workplace.

The training is a two-part course created to educate colleagues on the importance of projecting a professional appearance and presenting a positive attitude when dealing with guests. Basic hygiene expectations; proper uniform; body language do's and don'ts; effective verbal and nonverbal communication; resolving conflict; and a how-to guide when doing hair and makeup were a few of the topics discussed throughout the four-hour training.

Island Training Solution's owner Jim Arenovski conducted the first segment of the training, sharing how an individual's image—our core values, vision and mission—go hand-in-hand with developing a professional and positive personal brand.

"The aim of the training is to motivate the participants to take control of their career by making positive decisions and taking actions that will position themselves to be the best at what they do and for those actions to be noticed by those who count at work," said Arenovski. "We spoke of investing time to develop themselves personally and professionally, allowing them to rise to the challenges of the business. We also suggested to them to use social media carefully and to promote their successes and accomplishments, rather than to just connect with friends."

The second segment of the training involved a hands-on basic makeup and hair demonstration conducted by IPI Corporate Learning and Development supervisor Monique Sablan. An array of makeup and hair products were provided for the female participants, who were able to practice each step performed by the trainer.

"It was very exciting to be able to share my makeup and hair-care knowledge and skills with our female colleagues. The whole intent of the tutorial was not to alter the way they look, but to enhance their natural beauty and promote self-confidence," said Sablan. "Many of these ladies are guest-contact colleagues and it was a great experience being able to provide them with the proper training necessary for them to look and feel their best in the workplace."

IPI Food & Beverage assistant manager Marria Elezabeth Cauagdan expressed great appreciation for what she and her colleagues learned.

"The instructor was really good in explaining how image branding is important not only to yourself, but to the company as well. He also explained that how you present yourself, how you interact with people, and the way you build your image is what makes you who you are," said Cauagdan. "My favorite part was the make-up and hair session. Thanks to the trainer, we were able to follow an easy step-by-step procedure on how to apply make-up properly and different ways to style our hair. Everything was provided for us to practice with and we all had so much fun doing it."

The IPI Corporate Learning and Development Department will continue to strive to provide quality, professional, helpful and effective training for all colleagues as the company continues to expand. (***IPI***)

2013 Miss China Universe falls for the Marianas

On a visit this month to the islands, 2013 Miss Universe China Ye Jin fell in love… with the Marianas.

Ye was on Saipan on March 10-15, 2017, on her Miss China and travel blogger familiarization tour organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority and Century Tours, and she gushed about her experience.

"I am in love with this island. It's so beautiful here," she said.

As Miss China 2013, Ye participated in the 2013 Miss Universe pageant in Russia, where she was among the 16 semifinalists and won Miss Congeniality.

"Even though Ye travels all over the world and has visited a lot of island destinations, she just fell in love with our islands," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "That says a lot about not only our natural beauty, but the wonderful nature of our people that makes visitors feel at home."

"[It's] exactly like what people told me; you do have seven-color ocean here!" Ye wrote on her blog. "People are very friendly and helpful. I even conquered my fear of ocean water when

I was on Managaha! Friendly people and the crystal-clear water definitely helped a lot. Even though I was getting tired from all the marine sports and swimming, I just couldn't resist the water. The story here will continue…I will come back and visit the other two islands [of Tinian and Rota)] soon."

Concepcion said Ye has also expressed an interest in joining the MVA at upcoming trade shows in China to generate more attention for the Marianas.

Arriving from Beijing with a photographer, Ye experienced various activities, including a UTV tour, Discovery flight lesson, snorkeling at Grotto, a tour of a Best Sunshine International yacht, marine sports at Managaha, and an island tour of scenic and historic sites. ***(MVA)***

2013 Miss China Universe Ye Jin, third from left, poses with other Miss Universe contestants in this file photo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2013 Miss China Universe Ye Jin explores the jungle while visiting the Marianas on a familiarization tour on March 10-15, 2017.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2013 Miss China Universe Ye Jin, left, learns how to make indigenous Carolinian mwar (floral head lei) with Pacific Development Inc. on a familiarization tour on March 10-15, 2017.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2013 Miss China Universe Ye Jin has a photo shoot aboard the Best Sunshine International yacht on March 12, 2017, while visiting the Marianas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2013 Miss China Universe Ye Jin gets playful while parasailing in the Marianas on March 13, 2017. Ye was on a familiarization tour arranged by the Marianas Visitors Authority and Century Tours.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2013 Miss China Universe Ye Jin takes an aerial tour of Saipan on March 11, 2017.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Missed, not missing: Simmons' withdrawal sparks fascination

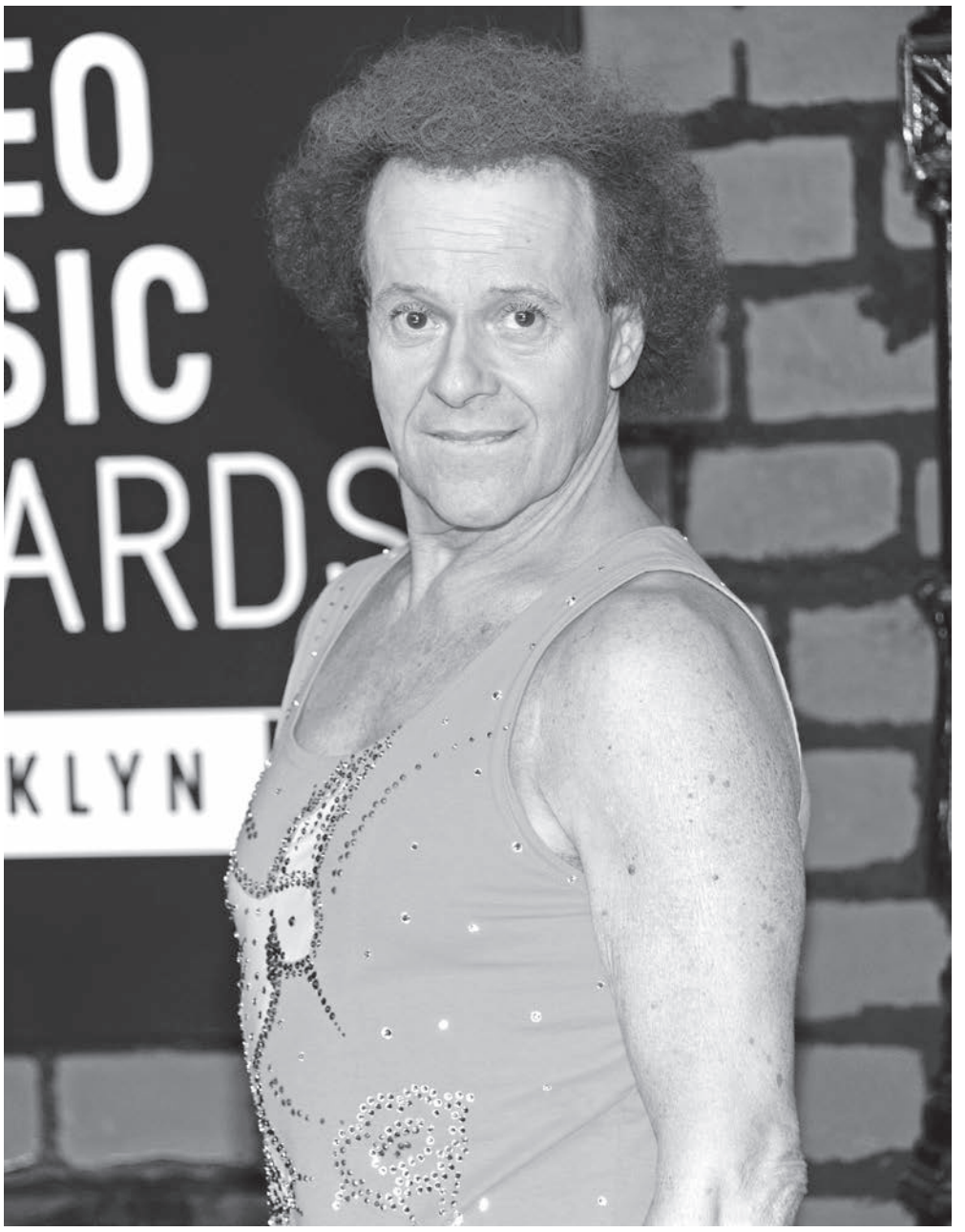
LOS ANGELES (AP)—Officially, Richard Simmons is not missing.

His publicist, manager, brother and two officers from the Los Angeles Police Department have all said the 68-year-old fitness guru is at his Hollywood Hills mansion and doing fine. Simmons said the same himself when he called into TV's "Entertainment Tonight" last year, explaining he was safe and well and that "it's time right now for Richard Simmons to take care of Richard Simmons."

But he has been missing from the spotlight for three years—and that was enough for Dan Taberski, a former producer of "The Daily Show," to create the "Missing Richard Simmons " podcast. Taberski has spent six episodes investigating his subject's whereabouts, making it most popular podcast in the country and inspiring a national obsession with Simmons' well-being. The final episode was released this week.

So how can a public figure step away from the spotlight in this plugged-in, celebrity-obsessed culture, where everyone has a camera in his pocket and a potential podcast in the making? And what are the ethical implications of publicly searching for someone who says he or she needs some private time?

Billed as an act of love by Taberski, "Missing Richard Simmons" has been "harmful," said Michael Catalano, Simmons' manager and friend for 30 years. It resurrected old rumors—that Simmons is changing his gender or being held hostage by his housekeeper—and heaped unwanted attention on his respite.



AP

In this Aug. 25, 2013 file photo, Richard Simmons arrives at the MTV Video Music Awards in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

"He didn't need this intrusion to validate his contribution to people," Catalano said in an interview Tuesday. "He knows the reception (the podcast) is having. He knows how people are responding to it. But it's also hurtful. It's humiliating, you know? It's damaging. It just is ...

"Anywhere he goes now there's going to be—more than there was before—pointing and speculation. Has he transitioned into a woman? Is that him behind that beard? I don't envy that. I don't envy that for someone, who at this time, has chosen to retreat. He has the right! I just don't think because you are on the public stage for 40 years that you have to continue to remain there until your last breath."

Simmons did not participate in the podcast and hasn't given any interviews since speaking to "Entertainment Tonight" in March 2016. Once ubiquitous on talk shows, celebrity-home tours and at his own Beverly Hills workout studio, he hasn't been seen publicly since February 2014. He also stopped corresponding with former students and friends.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

10 winners announced for $50,000 writing awards

NEW YORK (AP)—A Philadelphia-based actor-playwright and a former border patrol agent are among this year's 10 winners of $50,000 Whiting Awards for emerging artists. The recipients were announced Wednesday night at a ceremony in Manhattan. They include Philadelphia's James Ijames and Francisco Cantú, of Tucson, Arizona, a former border agent working on a memoir. Other winners are playwrights Clarence Coo and Clare Barron; poets Simone White and Phillip B. Williams; and fiction writers Jen Beagin, Kaitlyn Greenidge, Tony Tulathimutte and Lisa Halliday. The Whiting Awards were established in 1985 by the Whiting Foundation and are given to those with the promise of "superior literary work." Previous winners include Jonathan Franzen, August Wilson and Colson Whitehead.

ABC's Diane Sawyer to interview Caitlyn Jenner again

NEW YORK (AP) —ABC News' Diane Sawyer is reprising her interview with Caitlyn Jenner, with the former Olympic gold medalist slated to talk about her first couple of years of life as a woman. The former Bruce Jenner spoke to Sawyer in a 2015 special that reached 17.1 million viewers and won a DuPont-Columbia journalism award. Jenner has a book, "The Secrets of My Life," that is to be released four days after her new interview with Sawyer airs. The "20/20" special is scheduled for April 21.

Box office reaches new record, but international sales flat

NEW YORK (AP)—The Motion Picture Association of America said Wednesday that the worldwide box office reached a record $38.6 billion in 2016, though international revenues were essentially stagnant. The MPAA's annual report showed a global increase of .5 percent in ticket sales from 2015. While China, the world's second-largest market after the U.S., has long been a priority of Hollywood, it dropped 1 percent last year with $6.6 billion in ticket sales. Box office in North America hit a record $11.4 billion, although the increase of $300 million was due largely to rising ticket prices. About 11 percent of North Americans, the MPAA said, are frequent moviegoers—those who go to the theater at least once a month. They make up 48 percent of all tickets sold.

Mom's adult children are slow to embrace her new husband

DEAR ABBY: I lost my husband a few years ago and am now remarried. Some of my adult children, although they did not want me to be alone and they "say" they are happy for me, have been slow in welcoming my new husband.

I in no way expect him to be a replacement for their father. I only wish they would welcome him into their lives as they would anyone else's spouse. They don't have to love him. I ask only that they respect him and acknowledge that he's part of my life now. Wishing him a happy birthday and happy holidays directly would go a long way to making him feel accepted, as would more general communication.

He has tried on numerous occasions to show an interest in their lives, but he receives little acknowledgment in return. His children have welcomed me into their lives. This has strained and changed my relationship with my children.

I just want a family again. Is it asking too much of them to accept my husband as part of the family and to treat him that way?

MISSING MY FAMILY IN FLORIDA

DEAR MISSING: Have you told your children that the cool reception they have given your husband is harmful not only to him but also to you? If you have and they are still unable to warm up to him, it's time to concentrate your efforts on building closer relationships with those relatives who are willing to be more welcoming.

Remember, we can't change other people. We can, however, change ourselves, and by doing so, change the way we REACT to them.

DEAR ABBY: I have a family dilemma. We employ our 16-year-old niece to watch our boys, ages 8 and 10, during the summer and school breaks. We pay her well to come to our home and watch them eight hours a day.

My problem is, her younger brother is my son's best friend. He gets invited to their house for a sleepover the day before we need a sitter, and both boys go. Then the next day their mom says our niece watched them, and therefore she should get paid for that day, too. Abby, the mom is there all day.

To me, a cousin sleepover isn't something that should be charged for. Their children have come to our house for years for sleepovers, and I never charged them.

Is this OK? And if not, how do we refuse? We have already told her we prefer the boys to be watched at our home, so they receive one-on-one time. What do you think about this?

COUSIN SLEEPOVER

DEAR C.S.: What do I think? I think you have been taken advantage of. A baby sitter is hired when there is no adult in the home to supervise the children. If your nephew's mother can't be home when your boys have been invited for a sleepover, the person who should pay for the baby sitter is her—not you. If you want to put an end to this, tell the woman exactly what I have told you.

DEAR ABBY: I am a step-grandfather. Must I go to a grandchild's church performances even though I'm an atheist?

COMMAND PERFORMANCE IN OREGON

DEAR COMMAND: If you want a close and loving relationship with your grandchild (notice I didn't say "step-"), you should absolutely be present to encourage and support that child!

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO TRANSMOGRIFY INTO?
HOW ABOUT A TIGER?
THAT'S A GOOD IDEA. THE WORLD CAN ALWAYS USE ANOTHER TIGER.
JUST TURN THE ARROW AND PUSH THE BUTTON, THEN.
ALL RIGHT, HERE YOU GO.
ZAP!
DID IT WORK?
BOY, I'M HOT. HOW DO YOU STAND HAVING ALL THIS FUR?
TRANSMOGRIFIER

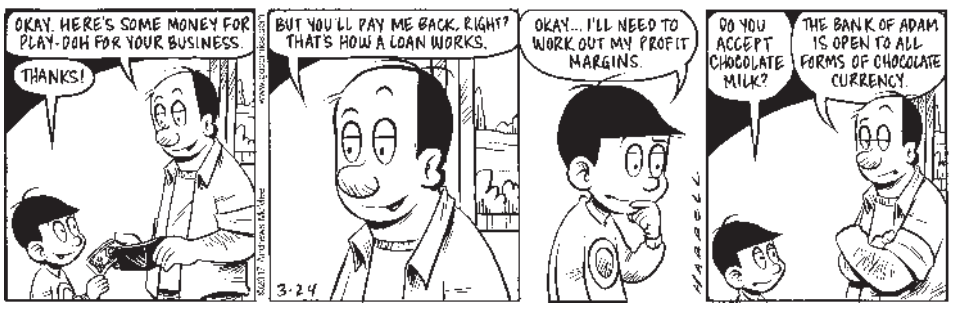
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

MY ACCORDION IS IN THE REPAIR SHOP
OH, NO!
DID SOMEBODY HIT IT WITH A HAMMER?
WHY WOULD YOU ASK THAT?
UM...
DEMAND A LAWYER
JIM DAVIS 3-24

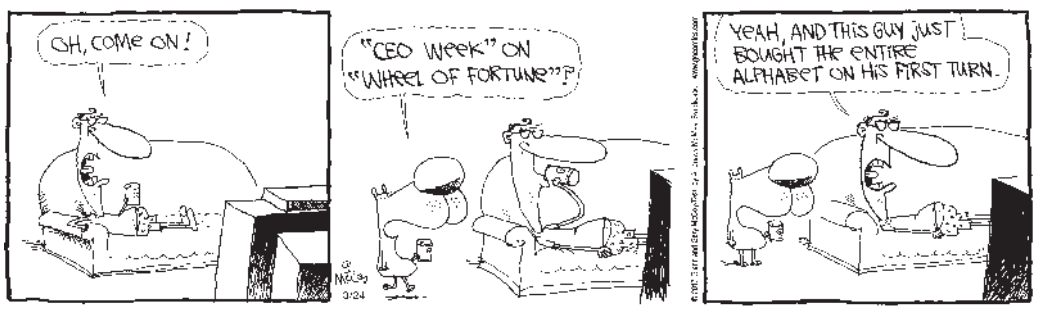
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY. HERE'S SOME MONEY FOR PLAY-DOH FOR YOUR BUSINESS.
THANKS!
BUT YOU'LL PAY ME BACK, RIGHT? THAT'S HOW A LOAN WORKS.
OKAY... I'LL NEED TO WORK OUT MY PROFIT MARGINS.
DO YOU ACCEPT CHOCOLATE MILK?
THE BANK OF ADAM IS OPEN TO ALL FORMS OF CHOCOLATE CURRENCY.
3-24

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

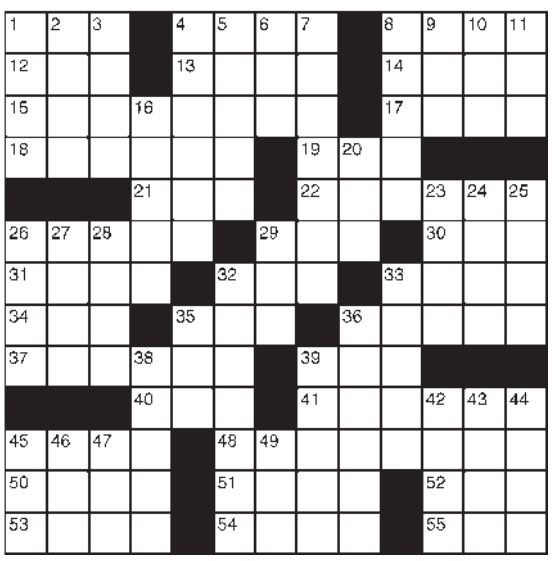
ACROSS
1 Tank filler
4 Ump's call
8 Bygone days
12 "— Little Teapot"
13 Austen heroine
14 Radio host Don
15 Tennis stroke
17 Songbird
18 Country star Randy
19 Verily
21 Connections
22 Prior to
26 Berate
29 Sister
30 Martini ingredient
31 Stately trees
32 Eggy quaff
33 Penny
34 Estuary
35 Cut the lawn
36 Winter coasters
37 Woodland
39 Luau bowlful
40 French article
41 "Batman" butler
45 Swerve
48 Gilbert & Sullivan's ship
50 Part of A.D.
51 In — (shortly)
52 Bro or sis
53 Auction signals
54 Prescribed amount
55 Hill dweller

DOWN
1 Present
2 Latin love
3 Poet Teasdale
4 Running late
5 Gather
6 Run after K
7 Colorful beetle
8 Rice recipe
9 Docs' org.
10 California's Big —
11 "For shame!"
16 Wicked acts
20 Still, in verse
23 Curved molding
24 Cantaloupe cover
25 Tolkien creatures
26 Feudal slave
27 Advertising award
28 Actor Epps
29 Promptly
32 Reporter's need
33 Steep rock face
35 ISP choice
36 Comfort
38 Continental cash
39 Glazier's sheets
42 Activist Parks
43 Ireland
44 Arrears
45 Moving vehicle
46 Rock's Brian
47 Conclusion
49 Equi-

Solution time: 25 mins.

R	O	W	S		S	E	E	R		T	O	P
A	B	O	O		H	A	_	O		C	A	R
H	O	O	L	H	A	H	D	Y		C	H	O
T	E	D	I	U	M			A	P	L	U	S
			D	R		F	I	L	M	S		
P	E	G	S		B	E	D		S	H	A	D
O	N	O			F	T	F			F	R	A
I	D	O	L		R	C	A		A	D	A	M
		L	E	I	G	H		M	R			
E	X	C	O	N				P	A	C	I	F	Y
Y	E	A		P	O	O	_	T	A	B	L	E
E	N	T		U	N	D	O		D	E	A	N
S	A	S		T	F	F	D		F	G	G	S

Yesterday's answer 3-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Peyton Manning, 41; Alyson Hannigan, 43; Jim Parsons, 44; Louie Anderson, 64.

Happy Birthday: Look around and you'll discover that you are not alone. Getting involved in organizations that can bring about change will give you a platform to raise questions and form an alliance with like-minded people. This will be a year of unity and looking out for one another. Become part of the big picture and you will make new friends. Your numbers are 3, 10, 22, 27, 33, 40, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19)*: Express your feelings and follow through with your plans. Personal gains can be yours if you are forthright about how you want your life to unfold. A partnership will bring you closer to achieving your lifelong goals. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20)*: Be helpful and compassionate. How you treat your peers will reinforce the types of relationships you develop with the people you deal with each day. Try to get along with others and you'll avoid gossip and criticism. Work hard and play hard. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20)*: Deal with authority figures if necessary. Show everyone what you have to offer and do whatever it takes to get ahead. Don't fold under pressure or let anyone stand between you and success. Celebrate your victory with someone you love. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22)*: Improvements that will make your living space more efficient and comfortable are featured. Stick to a budget and be sure to ask for approval to avoid getting into a spat with someone you live with. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22)*: Put more time, energy and effort into important partnerships. Getting along with others will make it much easier for you to get the help and backing you need to reach your goals. Travel, socializing and relationships should be your priorities.✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)*: Gather facts and question a proposal that sounds too good to be true. Try your best to work alone to reach your set goal. Impulsive or unpredictable people should be kept at a distance. Channel your energy wisely. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)*: Partnerships can be dealt with if you are willing to share and compromise. Make plans to do something nice for someone you love. Family get-togethers or doing something with children or elders will promote good relationships. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)*: Keep an open mind when dealing with emotional situations at home. A partnership will be difficult if you can't come up with alternative plans that will suit everyone involved. Show how much you care by taking positive action. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)*: Share your feelings, emotions and plans and you will get the response you are looking for. Much can be accomplished if you join forces with someone who shares your aspirations. Make love, romance and important relationships your priority. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)*: Emotional tactics will be used against you. Getting involved in a situation for the wrong reasons will be regretful. Uncertainty and doubt should be a warning sign to reconsider your plans. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)*: Professional options will open up. Consider what you enjoy doing most and you will find a way to turn it into a moneymaking endeavor. Trust in your judgment and make a commitment to help make the world a better place. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20)*: A partnership opportunity should be looked at carefully. Consider the motives behind the offer and your reasons for entertaining the possibility. Take your time and base your decision on a series of conversations, not one thing alone. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are focused, caring and persistent. You are intelligent and curious.

Eugenia's websites -- eugenialast.com for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2	6	9					3
	8	3			7			
	7		6					
	6				3			
				1				
			5				7	
					8		4	
			1			2	8	
4					6	1	5	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	5	1	4	7	9	6	3	8
9	8	7	6	2	3	1	5	4
4	3	6	1	5	8	7	9	2
3	7	2	8	9	4	5	1	6
6	9	8	2	1	5	3	4	7
5	1	4	7	3	6	8	2	9
1	6	9	3	4	7	2	8	5
8	2	5	9	6	1	4	7	3
7	4	3	5	8	2	9	6	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/24

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

TERNS Solution: 8 letters

P	T	N	A	P	E	D	R	W	M	N	Y	L	F	D
S	L	L	K	C	A	L	B	I	E	S	E	S	S	E
G	T	U	U	E	E	L	G	L	V	A	Y	R	G	R
E	E	S	M	D	R	R	E	D	S	E	D	E	N	E
L	T	A	E	A	A	U	L	T	R	E	R	T	I	G
D	I	V	I	N	G	A	C	G	N	E	B	S	W	N
E	H	I	T	R	R	E	F	W	T	R	A	R	O	A
L	W	S	E	I	S	L	O	A	Ⓣ	F	C	O	R	D
C	E	K	D	N	I	R	E	R	D	Ⓐ	N	F	R	N
A	L	A	I	G	C	S	T	E	R	N	Ⓘ	D	A	E
T	E	Y	H	Y	O	Y	E	L	L	O	W	Ⓛ	N	M
C	G	T	W	R	M	C	I	T	C	R	A	T	N	A
E	A	O	D	A	M	A	R	A	N	O	D	D	Y	R
P	N	O	S	Y	O	U	N	G	V	O	C	A	L	S
S	T	S	E	I	N	O	L	O	C	L	U	T	C	H

©2017 Andrews McMeel www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 3/24

Adult, Antarctic, Area, Black, Clutch, Colonies, Common, Damara, Diving, Elegant, Endangered, Flight, Fly, Forsters, Free, Grey, Inca, Insects, Kerguelen, Laridae, Least, Legs, Marsh, Migrants, Naped, Narrow, Nests, Noddy, Pale, Plumage, Rivers, Roseate, Snowy Crowned, Sooty, Spectacled, Sternidae, Tail, Vocals, White, Wild, Wings, Yellow, Young

Yesterday's Answer: Devotee

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 120 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

(1) Taekwondo Instructor, $10.25/hr. (1)Administrative Assistant, minimum salary. Mail resume to Blue Dragon Martial Arts Corporation at P.O. Box 506310 Saipan, MP 96950

(5) Heavy equipment operator, (2) Shipping & Receiving Clerks, (2) Auto Diesel Mechanic, (1) Freight supervisor, (1) Trucking & Maintenance Manager, (1) Sales Manager-Freight Forwarding. Mail resume to Cargo Express, Inc. P.O. Box 506391 Saipan, MP 96950

(2) Cook, minimum salary. Mail resume to Everest Kitchen Company PMB 1311 Box 10002 Saipan MP, 96950

1 General Maintenance $6.55/hr
3 yrs exp. Green Corporation
yum0821@hotmail.com

(8) Houseworker, (2) Laundry Worker, (2) Computer Support Specialist (2) Maintenance & Repair Worker, Minimum salary Mail resume to MTO Maintenance (Saipan), Inc. at P.O. Box 504053 Saipan, MP 96950

1 Scuba Diving Instructor, $6.55 - $7.05/hr. Min 5 years exp. Must speak, write & read Japanese. Certified by PADI. Napori Shoukai Inc. Tel. 235-2320

1-Maintenance Electrician $6.55/hr. w/ 5 yrs. exp.; 1-Building Maintenance Repairer. $6.55/hr. w/ 4 yrs. Exp. Mail resume to Pacific Daiken Co., Ltd., P.O. Box 501042, Saipan MP 96950 or email to eda@pacificdaiken.com

1 Accountant Bookkeeper/Computer Operator - $6.55 w/ 10yrs exp & knowledge in Accounting & Taxes. Japanese Foods Import/Export docs related. Mail resume to SPE SAIPAN Box 502696 Saipan MP 96950.

1 Irrigation Technician, 2 yrs experience required $6.55-7.25 per hour. Apply at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort in Kagman III

2 Heavy Equipment Operator, 1 yr experience required, $6.55-7.25 per hour. Apply at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort in Kagman III

(1) Operation Manager $9.75/hr and (3) Camera operators, Television, Video and Motion Picture, minimum salary. Mail resume to Saipan TV Productions PMB 272 Box 10000 Saipan MP, 96950

1 Commercial Cleaner
1 General Maintenance
3-5 years experience with valid driver's license. Police Clearance required. Email resume to San Vicente Estates at cisco.cnmi@yahoo.com

3-Cook, 2-Maintenance, 2-Beautician with at least 2 years experience. Interested applicants call Susan S. Castro at 287-5961.

Century Hotel

(1) Housekeeping Cleaner (Part-Time)
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. Minimum 6 months work experience preferable in a hotel. Must be able to speak and write in English. Ability to speak basic foreign language is a plus. Good customer service skills are essential. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Applications may be obtained and submitted at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's security office located at the south wing, ground floor. Dead-line for submission of application is March 24, 2017.

Century Hotel is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons
with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Century Insurance Co., Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Accountants (1)
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and Accounting with at least 5 years work-related experience in insurance financial management, payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivable, payable, and payroll management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system, GENIISYS and MS Word and Excel software. Payroll accountant must possess experience in electronic processing of timesheets, allotments, and standard and government deductions. Must be able to work under time pressure and flexible hours.

Accounting Manager (1)
Bachelor's degree in Business Administration major in accounting with a minimum 5 years experience in insurance financial management and possess good management ability. Proficient in MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, SAP R3 FICO system, and the insurance Geniisys program. Must possess good understanding of government and regulatory compliance procedures and requirements, excellent communication skills, as well as experience in interpreting financial reports. Preparation of NAIC Annual & Quarterly Statements, knows how to understand actuarial reports. Auditing experience is an advantage.

General Manager (1)
Bachelor's Degree plus 10 years experience in the insurance business, with at least 5 years experience as a General or Operations Manager position in an insurance company. Must possess experience in managing, technical underwriting, including actual undertaking of risk analysis through risk survey and/or inspections of huge risks. Must have experience in managing reinsurance transactions, with reinsurance brokers and reinsurers which involves undertaking of PML, Catastrophe Modeling, Setting Company Risk Retention. Must also be experienced in managing insurance claims handling including setting up of loss reserves in overseeing Claims Manager functions.

System Analyst (1)
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science/Technology or Management Information Systems with a minimum 4 years experience in computer systems and programming. Must possess a broad knowledge and experience in computer systems, strong problem-solving and analytical skills, and the ability to think logically. Must have knowledge in Oracle server and programming, and a strong experience in insurance database and program – GENIISYS and an in-depth experience in insurance business operations. Must have good interpersonal and communication skills.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Thursday, March 27, 2017.

Century Insurance is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following vacant position:

Bartender (1)

Qualification:
High School graduate or equivalent. 2 years progressive work experience as a bartender is required and preferably from a full service hotel or high volume restaurant. Must have a pleasing personality and sound judgment. Good customer service skills required. Must be willing to work a flexible schedule including week nights, weekends and holidays.

Applications may be obtained and submitted to our security office on the ground floor, south wing. Deadline for submission of application to be considered is March 26, 2017.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Saipan Tribune is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Accounting and Circulations Manager (1)
College degree with financial management major and 3 years of progressive financial management and newspaper circulation experience. Minimum of 5 years experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management and newspaper circulation activities. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills to manage a work team and independent contractors. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft software. CPA not required.

Associate Editor (1)
Associate degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any other related course with at least 5 years experience, including newsroom management, story evaluation, and production. Must have strong rewriting, headlining, and proofreading skills and must be able to meet tight deadlines. Preferably with an extensive experience in sports writing.

Circulations Coordinator (1)
Associate degree with a minimum of 2 years progressively responsible work experience. Requirements include professional customer service and good driving skills. Must be able to routinely lift and move bundles of newspapers up to 50 lbs.

Graphic Designer (2)
Associate degree in Graphic Design or other related field. Minimum of 3 years work experience doing computer graphics and newspaper layout. Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign is a must. Must be familiar with offset printing process, computer peripherals, and Mac operating system. Strong organizational and self-management skills, including the ability to multi-task and prioritize are required. Can work flexible hours, weekends, and holidays, depending on demand.

Art Director
Associate degree in Graphic Design or other related course. Minimum 5 years work experience in computer graphic and newspaper layout. Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign is a must. Must be able to assign and direct staff members to develop design concepts into art layouts. Reviews and approves art and copy materials developed by staff, and proofs of printed copy. Presents final layouts.

Managing Editor (1)
Associate degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any related course. At least 8 years progressive journalism and newspaper management experience with a strong story evaluation and production background. Must have rigorous proofreading skills and able to meet tight deadlines. Knows how to use InDesign or Quark Express and must be adept in the various technical aspects of newspaper publishing.

Reporters (2)
Associate degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any related course; At least 3 years work related experience; Above-average writing skills and a competent grasp of grammar and syntax; With rigorous standards for accuracy and detail; Ability to work within deadlines and in a stressful environment; Knowledgeable in all types of writing, including news and features; With photography skills. Must have own reliable transportation

Sports Reporter (1)
Associate degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English or any related course; At least 2 years experience in sports writing. Above average writing skills, with strong grasp of grammar and syntax. Must be able to write stories based on score sheets. Can work fast within deadlines and in a stressful environment. Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player. Must be able to work on holidays, weekends, late nights, and on a short notice. Must be computer literate and have photography skills. Must have own reliable transportation.

Accountant (1)
Associate Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work-related experience in general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at the Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m., Thursday, March 27, 2017.

Saipan Tribune is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

WHATZIT Solution: It's all over now

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR and HEAD COACH

Location: Saipan, CNMI.
Duties and Responsibilities:
- Introduce and demonstrate up to date training methods and playing techniques to players and then plan, organize, and conduct training and practice sessions.
- Scout and observe players from all levels to evaluate players' strengths and weaknesses, to recommend the level at which players can train or players, and to identify and recruit potential athletes.
- Plan and direct physical conditioning programs that will enable athletes to achieve maximum performance.
- Coach, train and prepare national team players for international competitions
- Provide training direction and develop methods to encourage and motivate players for games and competitions.
- Adjust coaching techniques, based on the strengths and weaknesses of athletes.
- Instruct individuals or groups in sports rules, game strategies, and performance principles.
- Keep records of athletes, teams and opposing teams' performance and analyze the strengths and weaknesses of opposing teams to develop game strategies.
- Take the lead for developing a multi-year strategic plan for the NMIFA.

Minimum Qualification:
- Bachelor's degree in Sports Science, Physical Education or related major.
- With 8 to 10 years minimum of international coaching experience or with 5 years minimum of international coaching experience plus a coaching instructor certificate. Resume must reflect the experience required and references will be verified.
- At a minimum, applicant must be a Class B-Licensed Coach in soccer under an AFC or other equivalent international licensing program.
- Must have extensive experience in soccer sports development including development programs of youth, men and women national players.
- Can work flexible hours and available on weekends, holidays and weeknights.
- Must have international coaching experience at the national level.
- Can communicate effectively in English. Understanding and speaking other Asian languages will be given additional consideration.
- Familiarity with EAFF and AFC run programs and competitions will be highly considered.

Salary will be based on qualification. Please send resume and other documents showing all requirements to the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association - 3rd Floor, TSL Plaza, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan or PMB 338, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950 or Fax no. 1-670-233-6632 or email to rzapanta@nmifa.com. To be considered, resume must be submitted no later than 5:00 pm, Tuesday, March 28, 2017.

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

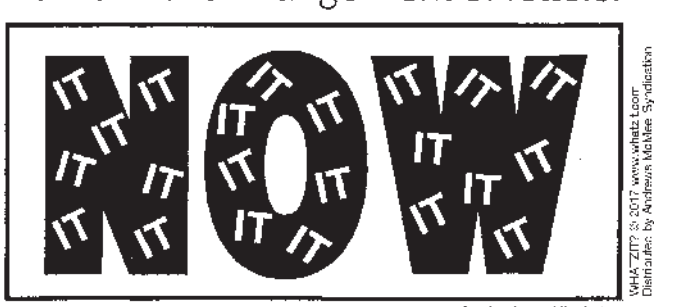
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.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Find today's solution in classified section

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Management Accountant (2)
College degree with accounting or financial management major and 5 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 3 years experience in analyzing, interpreting and providing sound financial information. Must be adept in monthly financial statement preparation and consolidation, cash flow forecasting, budgeting, and providing financial projections. Must have excellent communication, organizational and self-management skills. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft Excel, Power Point and Project. CPA not required.

Building Cleaner (4)
High School Diploma or equivalent. Must have at least 3 years working experience. Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Important qualities: detailed oriented, responsible. Interpersonal skills. Must get along well with people they provide services for and must be polite and friendly. Physical stamina. Must be able to spend many hours on their feet scrubbing, bending, stooping, and stretching and must be able to lift or move up to 50 pounds. Must be able to work flexible hours and days

Accountant (4)
Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work related experience in financial management and/or payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and Power Point software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Business Development Manager (1)
Graduate of a 4-year degree course with an Accounting or Financial Management major and at least 5 years of progressive financial and business management experience. Minimum of 3 years general management experience preferably in a financing or banking institution. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills. Must be proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software and Microsoft software. Should possess a solid track record of accomplishing business objectives.

Accounting Manager (1)
College degree with financial management major and 5 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 3 years experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management activities. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills to manage people. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft software.

Accounting Supervisor (1)
A Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a focus in accounting and/or finance. 2-3 years of progressive responsibility supervising a minimum of 3 associates. CPA/CPA candidate a plus. Audit experience also preferred. Must have knowledge with the use of SAP R3 FICO System and SAP Fixed Asset Module. Microsoft Office proficiency with advanced knowledge of Excel is a must.

Administrative Assistant (2)
Associate's Degree with 2 years experience of administrative and clerical procedures and systems such as word processing, managing files and records. Must be proficient in typing and good at written and oral communication. Must be able to consistently demonstrate good customer service and interpersonal skills at work. Must be available to work on weekends, holidays and weeknights. Proficient in MS Office including Word, Excel and Outlook.

Messenger (2)
High school graduate. Must be able to keep track of multiple documents and itemize. Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Good oral and written communication skills and good driving skills are required. Must provide and maintain own vehicle for work and have a valid driver's license. Must be available to work early mornings, late nights and weekends.

Administrative Assistant for Sports Facilities (4)
High school diploma or GED Certificate plus experience working in sports organization or sports facilities. Must be computer literate: Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook. Applicant must have good written and oral communication skills. Can work flexible hours and available on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

Air conditioning & Refrigeration Mechanic (2)
Associate's Degree or Vocational School graduate. Must have at least 2 years experience installing, servicing, and repairing air conditioning and refrigerating systems in residences and commercial establishments. Must have his/her own reliable transportation and must be able to work flexible hours.

HR & Administrative Assistant (1)
Associate's Degree. Must have knowledge of principles and procedures for personnel recruitment, selection, benefits and personnel information systems. Ability to work in confidential related matters, self-directed and be able to multi-task in a fast paced environment. With a minimum of 2 years work experience in an administrative role and accounting experience. Proficient in MS Office including Word, Excel and Outlook.

Electrician (1)
High school diploma or GED certificate. Must have at least 2 years experience installing, maintaining, and/or repairing electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Must have knowledge of electrical codes, intercom and electrical control systems. Must be able to work flexible hours.

General Maintenance Worker (11)
High school diploma or equivalent with at least 3 years experience especially in equipment and appliance repair. Must have some basic knowledge and troubleshooting experience in plumbing and electrical systems, masonry, carpentry, and other cleaning and general maintenance work inside and outside facilities. Must be able to lift and move heavy supplies and objects. Must be willing to work flexible hours.

Network Administration Manager (1)
Associate's degree in any computer science, information engineering or other computer technology related areas. Must have at least 5 years of sound experience in local and wide area networks management and administration including system configuration, setup, troubleshooting, planning, designing, implementation, and user support. Must have knowledge in MS Exchange Email Server.

Engineering Manager (1)
Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering with at least 5 years of progressive management experience. Ability to successfully develop, implement and manage projects including the ability to provide effective leadership is a must. Adeptness in cost estimation and knowledge of quality control and federal regulations in environmental and occupational safety hazards is required. The duties of this job require constant outside travel and exposure to outside weather conditions. Must be able to provide his/her own transportation and must have a valid driver's license.

Sales Officer (1)
Associate's Degree in Sales or Marketing and at least 3 years work related experience are required. Must have his/her own reliable transportation. Must be able to meet monthly sales targets and have extensive contacts in various industries. Must be able to prepare management and sales reports and is proficient in various MS office software operations. Can work flexible hours. Must be available to work on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

Legal Secretary (2)
Associates degree and at least 2 years work related experience in a legal office. Proficient in case and document management software, Microsoft Office Word, Excel, Power Point and Outlook. Familiar in preparation and filing of pleadings and legal documents.

Corporate Paralegal Officer (1)
Bachelor's degree in paralegal studies or in any related field. Minimum of 3 years experience providing sound legal research, reliable litigation support and preparation of legal documents, pleadings and contracts. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Familiarity with Lexis - Nexis and Pacer - ECF is required.

IT Manager (1)
College degree with a major in computer science, computer technology or information engineering or other related areas is required. At least 5 years of progressive management experience and 8 years of sound and all-around IT technical experience is required. Must have well-developed written/oral and management skills and with a strong background in all IT hardware, software and communication business requirements.

Computer Technician (1)
Associate's degree in any computer science, information technology or other related areas. Must have at least 3 years of sound experience in electronics and communication systems with emphasis on the repair of computer equipment and installation of telephone cables/systems. Must be knowledgeable in different software applications and in hardware troubleshooting. Must be able to work flexible hours.

Programmer Analyst (1)
Associate's degree in computer science or computer programming and at least 3 years of work-related experience in a professional Microsoft Windows environment. Strong practical knowledge in relational databases management particularly in midrange RDMS environment such as SQL server. Knowledge in windows-based and web-based programming is a must.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Thursday, March 27, 2017.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

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MAKE-A-WISH
Visit us at: Make-A-Wish Guam
590 South Marine Corps Drive. ITC Bldg. Suite 109
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Tel: (670) 483-9474 • Email: info@guam.wish.org
www.guam.wish.org
Saipan Tribune

Mount Carmel School
Post Office Box 500006, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6184/234-7188
Fax No. (670) 235-4751
Email: mtcarmel@vzpacifica.net
Web: http://www.mtcarmel-edu.net

Mount Carmel School, a private Catholic elementary and secondary school, is accepting applications for the following postitions.

Japanese Language Teacher
Min Reqs: Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in Japanese Language or related field.

Elementary School Teacher
Min Reqs: Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education or related field.

School Accountant
Min Reqs: Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting or related field.

School Custodian / Maintenance Personnel
Min Reqs: High school diploma and at least six months to one year of experience of custodian / maintenance.

Send CV to Mount Carmel School, P.O. Box 500006, Saipan, MP 96950 or email to galvin.deleonguerrero@gmail.com. Verif of qualifs req.

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

KAUILA ENTERPRISE
is looking for:
1 Bookkeeper
Please send resume to
P.O. Box 505053, Saipan MP 96950
or email to annacabael@yahoo.com

KAUILA ENTERPRISE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
is looking for:
1 Electronic Technician
Please send resume to
P.O. Box 505053, Saipan MP 96950
or email to annacabael@yahoo.com

Gemkell Saipan Corporation

invites qualified U.S. worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Accounting Manager (1)
College degree in finance, accounting, economics, or business administration and 5 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 3 years experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management activities. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills to manage people. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft software. Excellent customer service skills. Knowledge of standard office equipment. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications to gemkell_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, resumes/application documents must be submitted not later than 5:00 PM on March 29, 2017. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

1) Chief Accountant - Bachelor's Degree w/ minimum of 3 yrs. work experience
(1) Production Manager - College Degree or 5 yrs. Equivalent work experience
(1) Production Supervisor - High School Diploma w/ 2 yrs. work experience
(1) Refrigeration & Aircon Technician - High School/Vocational Diploma w/ 2 yrs. experience
(2) Sales Representative - High School Diploma w/ 1 yr. work experience
(1) Production Clerk - High School Diploma w/ 1 yr. work experience
(3) Baker - High School Diploma w/ 2 yrs. work experience
(2) Cake Decorator - High School Diploma w/ 1 yr. work experience
(2) Packer - High School Diploma w/ 6 mos. work experience
(1) Cook Assistant - High School Diploma w/ 6 mos. work experience

Must be willing to work on weekends, holidays and be able to work on flexible hours.

Interested applicants may send their resume to sales.saipan@hermansbakery.com or pick-up an application form at our HR office at Tun Herman Pan (Airport Road)

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TRIPLE J SAIPAN, INC.

is now accepting applications for experienced:

- ASSISTANT CHEF
- ASSISTANT CHEF HELPER
- BAKER
- SERVERS
- SR ACCOUNTANT / ACCOUNTANT
- IT ADMINISTRATOR

Apply online at:
www.triplejsaipan.com/careers

Triple J offers competitive benefits and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Kanoa Resort Saipan

is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Front Office Manager (1)
Qualifications: Preferably a college graduate with a Bachelor degree in Hospitality or Tourism Management; a minimum of two years work experience as Front Office Supervisor in a hotel of significant volume. Ability to read, analyze and interpret journals, financial reports and legal documents. Ability to write letters, memorandums or conceptualizing hotel's objectives. Ability to effectively present information to top management and employees, in groups or individually. Ability to speak, write and read in the English language fluently. Fluency in Japanese is an advantage. Ability to calculate figures and amounts such as discounts, commissions, proportions, percentages, area, circumstances, and volume, and analyze such information. Ability to define problems, collect data, establish facts, and draw valid conclusions. Comprehensive knowledge of business management, financial reporting and productivity requirements; Proficient in Microsoft Office program and Fidelio System software. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings holidays and/or weekends.

Electrician (1)
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. Minimum of five (5) years work experience required. Provide access for future maintenance and avoid unreliable wiring, consistent with verification and electrical codes, and other related duties as assigned. Capable of reading schematic diagram, and electrical symbols, knowledgeable on industrial electricity, circuit breakers, switches and controls. Must to work in a flexible way that allows for changes in assignments and priorities depending upon identified needs of the department. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Landscaper (1)
Qualifications: Minimum of two (2) to three (3) years previous work experience. Cultivates and cares for ornamental plants and installs floral displays indoor or outdoor settings through performance of any combination of following duties as directed by supervisory personnel. Able to work a variable schedule on occasion including weekends.

Sous Chef (1)
Qualifications: High school diploma; a graduate from independent and vocational cooking schools, professional culinary institutes or a college degree in appropriate field or equivalent. Must have at least four (4) years experience in a five-star Hotel, Club, or Resort. Supervising-chef assistant Supervises and coordinates activities of cooks and other workers engaged in preparing and cooking foodstuffs. Assumes responsibility for kitchen in absence of EXECUTIVE CHEF. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

International Cook (1)
Qualifications: High school diploma; graduate from independent and vocational cooking schools, professional culinary institutes or a college degree in appropriate field or equivalent. At least three (3) years experience in a five-star Hotel, Club, or Resort. Must be able to prepare, season, and cook a wide range of international dishes such as soups, meats, vegetables, salads, entrees, and desserts in the Resort. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Baker (1)
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. At least two (2) years experience in a five-star Hotel, Club, or Resort. preferably in a hotel. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Demi Chef (1)
Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent, or postsecondary instruction from vocational schools. Minimum of four (4) years work experience as a Demi-Chef preferably in hotel. Comprehensive knowledge of kitchen hygiene practices and occupational health and safety standards is essential. Supervise and coordinates activities of kitchen operation and personnel. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Cafeteria Attendant (1)
Qualifications: High school diploma or GED certificate. Little or no previous work-related skill, knowledge, or experience is needed for these occupations. Must facilitate food service. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

A/C Refrigeration Mechanic/Technician (1)
Qualifications: Require post-secondary instruction from technical and trade schools or community colleges that offer programs in air-conditioning and refrigeration or and associate's degree. Completion of an apprenticeship program or two (2) to four (4) years of experience. Able to install and repair industrial and commercial refrigeration systems. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Powerhouse Mechanic (Power Plant) (1)
Qualifications: Require postsecondary instruction from technical and trade schools or community colleges, and/or associate's degree. Completion of an apprenticeship program or 2 to 4 years of experience. Perform routine maintenance or make repairs to mechanical, electrical, or electronic equipment in power plants. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Pool Attendant (1)
Qualifications: High School graduate with at least two (2) years work experience as a Pool Attendant. Knowledgeable on some sports and in organizing group activities. Must be knowledgeable with the use of chemicals for the pool. Certified CPR, First Aid and Lifeguard. Willing to work a variable schedule on occasion, including weekends.

General Maintenance Worker (1)
Qualifications: Minimum of two (2) years work experience as a Handyman preferably in a hotel or in a similar large building or complex with central plant. Willingness to work outside (if necessary) in inclement weather. Must be able to carry and lift heavy objects. Possession of a valid driver's license is essential. Perform work involving skills of two or more maintenance craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, or the structure of an establishment in repair. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Income Auditor Supervisor (1)
Qualifications: A bachelor's degree in accounting or a related field. Minimum of five (5) years progressive experience in night audit/income audit operations, preferably in a hotel. Examine and analyze accounting records to determine financial status of establishment and prepare financial reports concerning operating procedures. Must also have experience with inventories to include, but not limited to F&B, Dry goods and Housekeeping cleaning and guest supplies. Willing to work a variable schedule on occasion, including weekends.

Housekeeping Cleaner (5)
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. Minimum 6 months work experience preferably in a hotel. Must be able to speak and write in English. Ability to speak basic foreign language is a plus. Good customer service skills are essential. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Tailor/Seamstress (2)
Qualifications: Minimum of three (3) years work experience as a tailor preferably in a hotel. Must be able to think creatively. Is able to design, make draperies, repair or fit garments. Must have an interest in fashion, color and style. Must have ability to work quickly, accurately and independently in a fast-paced environment. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Housekeeping Supervisor (3)
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum of two (2) years work experience at a supervisory/managerial capacity, in a five-star hotel, club, or resort. Must directly supervise and coordinate work activities of cleaning personnel in the hotel. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends..

IT Tech Support Manager (1)
Qualifications: Any combination of education and training equivalent to possession of a bachelor's degree in computer science, information engineering, computer associates or other related areas. Must have at least five (5) years working experience. Experience in all areas of local and wide area networks management and administration including system configuration, setup, troubleshooting, implementation, and user support. Experience installing and supporting Microsoft server technologies. Working knowledge of local and wide area networks (LAN/WAN), Internet, e-mail systems, telecommunications and data communications, standard operating systems, software packages, and software. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Night Auditor (2)
Qualifications: College Diploma or Equivalent certificate, in a hotel or resort. Must have at least two (2) years experience in hotel internal auditing. Must be willing to work flexible night duty/graveyard schedule, weekends, holidays and extended work hours. Understanding of business processes and work flow design. Strong financial analytical background and must be knowledgeable on Microsoft office applications and other software are essential. Good communication and interpersonal skills are necessary. Also responsible in handling of company general funds. Ability to pay close attention to detail with a high degree of accuracy, adapt to changes in work environment, work as assignments and/or changes in priorities. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Wait Staff (5)
Qualifications: High school diploma/GED. At least 6 months serving experience required or 6 months current hosting experience. Restaurant and Beverages experience preferred. Proven knowledge of Micros or equivalent computer software and cash check, credit card handling procedures required. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Wait Staff (Banquet) (2)
Qualifications: High school diploma/GED. At least one (1) years experience required in banquet and/or related field. Restaurant and Beverages experience preferred. Proven knowledge of Micros or equivalent computer software and cash check, credit card handling procedures required. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Food and Beverage Supervisor (3)
Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent or training in vocational schools, related on-the-job experience, or an associate's degree. Minimum two (2) years work experience as F&B supervisor preferably in a hotel. Must be able to directly supervise and coordinate activities of workers engaged in preparing and serving. Strong customer service skills and people oriented. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Cook (2)
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent with three (3) years work experience preferably in a hotel. Basic culinary skills and good hygiene knowledge is essential. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Maintenance Coordinator (1)
Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent. Requires one or two years of satisfactory performance as a Maintenance Coordinator; or any combination of related education and experience in the assigned area; or up to four (4) years of college courses in civil engineering, construction management or related field. Ability to interpret and administer contracts for construction, and/or operational services. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Room Reservations Manager (1)
Qualifications: College or university Diploma in Hospitality or Tourism Management; minimum of two years related experience as Front Office Manager, Executive Housekeeping Manager or Sales Manager in a hotel. Comprehensive knowledge of business need, financial reporting and productivity requirements. Proficient in Microsoft Office Program and Property Management System. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends and holidays.

Housekeeping Manager (1)
Qualifications: At least 5 years of progressive experience in a hotel or a related field; or a 2-year college degree and 3 or more years of related experience; or a 4-year college degree and at least 1 year of related experience. Supervisory experience required. Must be proficient in Windows operating systems. Excellent communication skills. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, weekends, nights and holidays.

Facilities and Repair Maintenance Manager (1)
Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in related field or five years facilities and repair management experience in a manufacturing environment. Responsible for Rooms Preventative Maintenance Schedule, Building Repair and Maintenance, Landscaping and Gardening, Banquet, Restaurant and Kitchen Repair and Maintenance, Public Area Repair and Maintenance, Swimming Pool Repair and Maintenance, Concessionaires Repair and Maintenance, set up of banquet requirement and others. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends and holidays.

Power Plant Maintenance Manager (1)
Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in related field or five years management experience in a power plant environment. Responsible for production, maintenance, quality and other production-related activities. In charge of Power Plants, Reverse Osmosis Plants, Back Up Power Generators, Chillers (Air Con) Operations, Sewerage System operations, Electrical Switch Gears operations, Water Pumps operations, Boilers/Hot Water Operation, energy consumption readings and recording, and others. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends and holidays.

General Manager (1)
Qualifications: Ideally with a degree or diploma in Hospitality, Tourism or Business Management with a minimum of ten years management experience in the Front Office, Housekeeping or Sales & Marketing of a Hotel or Resort of significant volume and preferably and with at least 3 years of experience in an executive or senior management level capacity. Must be able to lead a management team, develop and execute strategic business plans that define profitability objectives, operational/product goals, guest loyalty and satisfaction and team member engagement objectives. Must possess exceptional customer service and interpersonal skills. Must have excellent oral and written communication skills. Planning, problem-solving and financial reporting skills are essential. The successful candidate will be responsible for the overall management of the Resort, ensuring that it runs in a smooth and efficient manner with maximum efficiency, profitability, consistent high service levels while providing the best possible guest experience.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applicants must be submitted not later than March 27, 2017. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

www.saipantribune.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

2 - Silkscreen Printer
1 - Silkscreen Printer
1 - General Manager
1 - Sales Representative
1 - Admin. Manager
1 - General Maintenance

U.S qualified applicants,
Email your resume at
hr.islandapprael@gmail.com
No phone calls please

Island Apparel
P.O. Box 502912,
Saipan MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Auto Mechanic – Must have atleast 2 yrs. work related experience. Excellent diagnostic/ repair skills of vehicle systems. High self motivation.

(1) Trash Collector – Atleast High School graduate. With valid driver's license. Needs to be physically fit and willing to work flexible time and must be hardworking.

Submit Applications To:
PAM PACIFIC ENTERPRISES CORP.
Tel. # (670)235-7270

GMA Corp. dba NMI Contractor
P.O. BOX 503317 CK, SAIPAN MP 96950
TEL./FAX: 233-5646 CELL: 287-3542/287-0847

POSITION : PURCHASING OFFICER
- Associate Degree or College degree with at least 3 years of work experience in procurement operation.
- Excellent skill in purchasing negotiation and knowledge-able in shipping & delivery documentation.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Application especially in Microsoft Excel & PowerPoint
- Has a background and able to use & understand Application System Protocol (SAP)
- Capable to multi task and perform administrative jobs
- With excellent communication skill, self-motivated and can handle work with a very minimum to no supervision
- Willing to work on extended hours, evening, during weekends or holidays if needed.
- Must able to drive with a valid driver's license.

Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment. Salaries will commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should be sent by mail to P.O. BOX 503317 Saipan, MP 96950 or email to noel96950@yahoo.com not later than March 31, 2017

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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- **JOB TITLE: BRICK LAYER**
- **NUMBER OF OPENINGS: 200**
- **SALARY RANGE: $7.05 to $10 /Hourly**
- **JOB DUTIES:** Independently lay ceramic tiles and stone materials, obey construction arrangement and consciously complete allocated construction tasks, construct building according to work order without arbitrarily changing construction items and requirements, rapidly construct building with good quality and enough quantity during working time, get raw materials according to list of construction items, economize raw materials and eradicate waste, ensure that residual raw materials are recycled properly and stored into warehouse, ensure that raw materials are cleared after completion for customer satisfaction, pay attention to the safety of construction so as to prevent theft, fire disaster and personal injury, ensure that work order and materials order be timely checked and signed.
- **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Familiar with dry hanging technology of stone materials; skillfully operate cutting machine, angle grinder and other special machinery for brick laying. Must have at least a few months to 1 year experience.

- **JOB TITLE: PAINTER**
- **NUMBER OF OPENINGS: 200**
- **SALARY RANGE: $7.05 to $10 /Hourly**
- **JOB DUTIES:** Conscientiously and completely finish assigned tasks with good quality, and full rate if progress, correctly use and protect paint, alcohol, banana oil, and other volatile, inflammable and explosive chemicals; safely operate equipment according to technological operation specification; eradicate fire disaster, poisoning, electrical shock, etc., abide by rules and regulation of the company without violating laws and discipline; lend paint according to requirement of technology ; master the method of roughly estimating the precision of paint, operate air compression pump, exhaust fan, etc.; correctly use and read meters(i.e., barometer, thermometer, etc.)
- **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Familiar with the operating skill of spraying paint, must have the ability to read construction drawings, have a good command of kinds of special tools, independently paint putty and complete polish work, do surface latex decoration work, expertly pave and paste wall paper, spray paint wooden surfaces. At least a few months to 1 year of related experience and/or training, or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Must have at least a few months to 1 year of experience.

- **JOB TITLE: WOODWORKER**
- **NUMBER OF OPENINGS: 300**
- **SALARY RANGE: $7.05 to $10 /Hourly**
- **JOB DUTIES:** Responsible for all work about civil engineering in construction site, arrange and elaborately construct the project according to the overall construction planning, follow the command of leader of construction team and timely complete each task assigned solve existing technique problems and quality in construction, arrange working procedures to create safe working conditions, provide written safety technique disclosure to guarantee geometric dimensioning meets drawing requirements, axes shifting must be controlled in permitted scope; deviation of standard height must not exceed norm, cooperate with other workers to well hand over working procedure, consciously abide be rules and regulations of the company, obey the arrangement of superior leaders.
- **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Able to read construction drawings, able to skillfully operate kinds of special tools, able to install made-up wood surface, able to independently make light-steel suspension system, wall partition system, soft wall surface, and hard wall surface; comprehensively familiar with design blueprint, master design alteration, and technical disclosure of proprietors. Must have at least a few months to 1 year of experience.

- **JOB TITLE: ELECTRICIAN**
- **NUMBER OF OPENINGS: 100**
- **SALARY RANGE: $7.05 to $10 /Hourly**
- **JOB DUTIES:** Diagnose and repair electrical problems in commercial and domestic electrical systems, including fault-finding, rewiring, and monitoring Assess the parts needed for a job and place orders for those parts Conduct routine maintenance and testing on commercial and domestic electrical systems, and ensure installations are to manufacturer standards, including in fire alarms and security systems Rewire faulty electrical systems, such as lighting, heating systems, and alarms Ensure good quality workmanship which upholds company standards, complies with building codes, and follows safety requirements Work alone to find and present faults and concerns in electrical systems without receiving explicit direction
- **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Previous Electrical Experience, Lighting, Wiring, Alarm Systems, Fire Prevention Systems, Strong Written and Verbal Communication, Electrical Maintenance

- **JOB TITLE: ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**
- **NUMBER OF OPENING: 3**
- **SALARY RANGE: $7.05 to $18 /hourly**
- **JOB DUTIES:**
  - Manages and executes administrative, project, and executive support activities associated with the office of a core division or equivalent component of the company. Reporting directly to the principal executive officer of the entity, serves as principle point of administrative contact and liaison with internal and external constituencies.
  - Provides and/or oversees the provision of direct staff support to the office manager. Provides specialist administrative services as appropriate in such areas as public/community relations, faculty, staff, general business administration; and/or development and relations, depending upon the functional area supported.
  - Oversees and administers the day-to-day activities of the office; develops policies, procedures, and systems which ensure productive and efficient office operation.
  - Provides assistance and support in problem solving, project planning and management, and development and execution of stated goals and objectives.
  - Provides and/or oversees provision of staff support to the office, to include handling walk-up and phone interactions, maintaining calendars and travel arrangements, screening, analyzing, and responding to incoming correspondence, handling day-to-day problems and situations, and provision of secretarial support.
  - Provides assistance in the understanding and interpretation of company policies and procedures, as appropriate, and ensures that office operations are in compliance with policy provisions and standards.
  - Assists in the coordination, supervision, and completion of special projects, as appropriate.
- **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**
  - Completed degree(s) from an accredited institution that are above the minimum education requirement may be substituted for experience on a year for year basis
  - Bachelor's degree; 2 years of directly related experience managing at least one of the following functional areas: fiscal services, administration and/or human resources
  - Must be able to speak, read, and write in Mandarin
- **EXPERIENCE**
  - Five years of additional work experience directly related to the duties and responsibilities specified.

- **JOB TITLE: ACCOUNTANT**
- **NUMBER OF OPENING: 3**
- **SALARY RANGE: $7.05 to $18 /hourly**
- **JOB DUTIES:** Prepare and verify daily reports. Prepare daily income/sales and prepare daily journal entry. Prepare daily deposits of ticket sales receipts. Reconcile bank account for ticketing office. Communicate with ticketing managers and others working on the ticketing systems problems. Prepare authorized refund vouchers. Compile monthly reports. Investigate and collect returned items. Maintain returned check account. Maintain chargeback account. Prepare monthly balance sheet schedules. Preparing accounts and tax returns. Administering payrolls and controlling income and expenditure. Auditing financial information. Compiling and presenting reports, budgets, business plans, commentaries and financial statements. Financial forecasting and risk analysis.
- **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Competency in Microsoft applications including Word, Excel and Outlook. Organizational, verbal and written communication skills a must. Attention to detail and ability to multi-task is an asset. Requires 3-year-experience. Chinese speaking preferred.

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Tian Zi Corporation
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Atleast 2 yrs. experience as Quality Control Checker or related work. Atleast High School graduate, flexible, and hardworking.

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Tel. 235-7270

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in Assisting Tourist
Can Speak English and Chinese
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Contact Number: 323-2916 / 323-0102

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dba EdVentures TAXPRO is now hiring:
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Email resume to limjs5223@hanmail.net

IM CALVO, LLC
P.O. Box 502795 Saipan MP 96950
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
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Email resume to edwardcalvo@gmail.com. No phone calls please. US applicants are encouraged to apply.

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Closing Date: March 28, 2017
(2) Barber
(3) All-around Beautician
(1) Business Operations Manager
(1) Sales/Accounting Clerk
(1) Air-con Technician

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Interested or Qualified applicants send resume to: pss.admin@sopguam.net "No Phone Call."

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please call our office at Kanat Tabla Drive, Saipan MP 96950.
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Westbrook posts 35th triple-double, Thunder roll past 76ers

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Add another first for Russell Westbrook -- a triple-double without missing a shot.

Westbrook recorded his 35th triple-double of the season with 18 points, 11 rebounds and 14 assists and the Oklahoma City Thunder cruised to a 122-97 win over the Philadelphia 76ers on Wednesday night.

He did so while making all six of his field-goal attempts and all six of his free throws. According to the Elias Sports Bureau, no NBA player previously has had a triple-double without missing a shot attempt or free throw.

"It's amazing, especially for a point guard, because he's shooting threes, twos, inside, outside," said Oklahoma City center Enes Kanter of his teammate's perfect shooting. "For a point guard, he's doing an unbelievable job, playing his game, having fun."

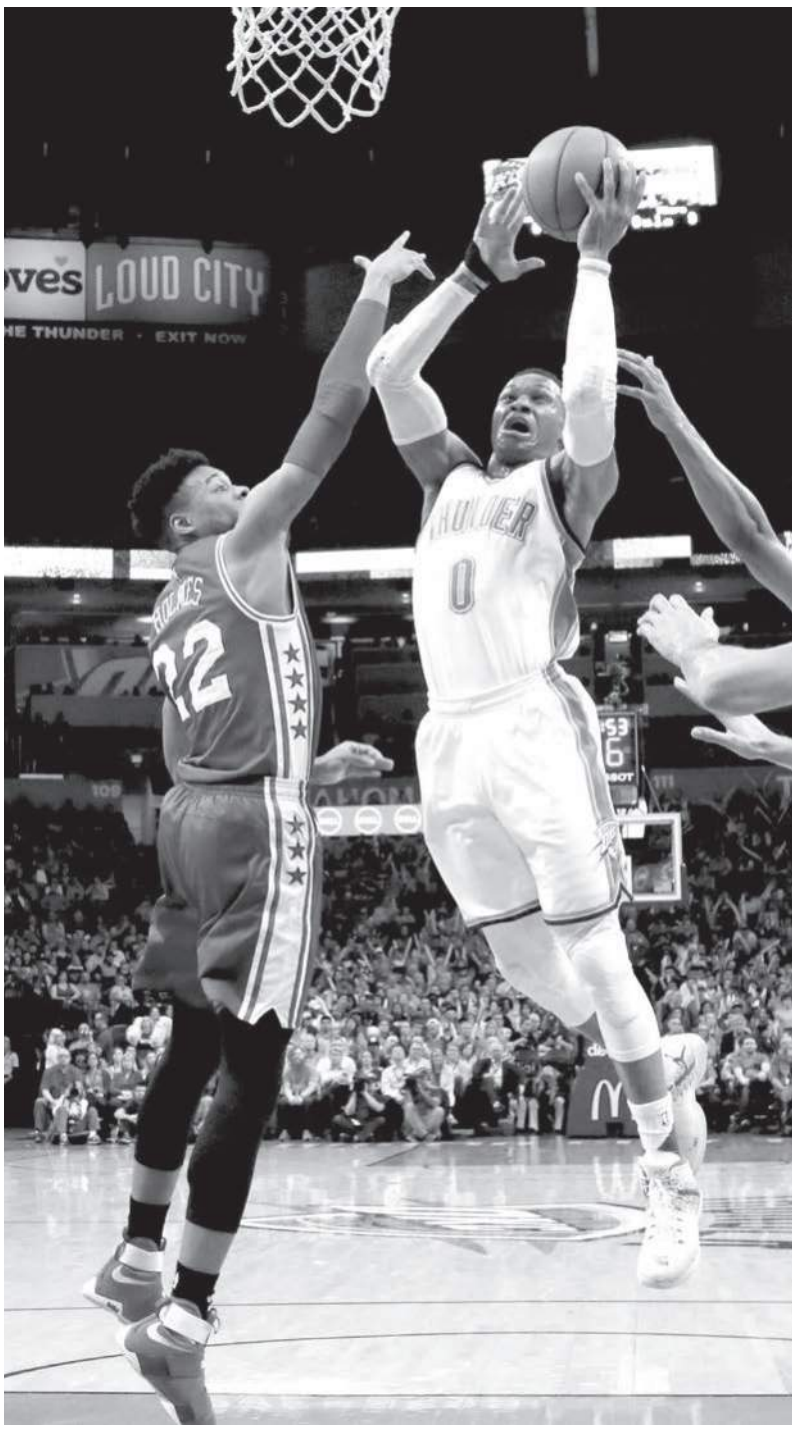
Westbrook's perfect shooting night could partially be attributed to a conscious decision to not shoot a 3-pointer in a game for the first time since March 14, 2016. He said he wasn't aware during the game that he hadn't missed a shot.

"I was just trying to play, trying to take my time," Westbrook said. "I've been watching some film, trying to pick my spots better. I found ways to continue to get my teammates involved throughout the game and it just happened that way.

The Thunder have won 16 straight games against Philadelphia, a run that stretches to the 2008-09 season, the franchise's first in Oklahoma City. That dominance was perhaps most evident in the final rebounding numbers on Wednesday: Oklahoma City 54, Philadelphia 25.

"It's a fantastic example for our young guys on the physicality of playoff-type teams," Philadelphia coach Brett Brown said. "That side of it to me stood out more than it has in a long time. ... You look at the discrepancy on the boards, the rebounding differential, and it felt that.

"It's a reminder. If you want to play late in April, if you want to play in May, maybe June one day, that's the physicality that the playoffs bring."



Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) shoots in front of Philadelphia 76ers forward Richaun Holmes (22) during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Wednesday, March 22, 2017.

Nik Stauskas led the 76ers with 20 points, reaching the 20-point mark in consecutive games for the first time in his career.

After 11 lead changes in the opening minutes, the Thunder seized control with a 14-3 run near the end of the first quarter that put them ahead 29-22. Oklahoma City pushed its lead to 14 at one point before settling for a 63-50 halftime lead.

Philadelphia scored to start the third quarter, then the Thunder scored the next 15 points to build a 26-point lead and the triple-double watch intensified. Westbrook's 10th assist came when Taj Gibson rattled in a 15-foot jumper at the 9:10 mark and the 10th rebound came with 7:08 left in the quarter.

It was the 13th time this season, and the 27th time in his career, Westbrook clinched a triple-double in the third quarter. He left the game with 2:39 left in the quarter and didn't return.

Westbrook has recorded five triple-doubles against Philadelphia, his highest total against any NBA team. He needs six triple-doubles in Oklahoma City's final 11 games to tie Oscar Robertson's single-season record, set during the 1961-62 season.

Kanter posted his 17th double-double of the season for the Thunder with 24 points and 11 rebounds. Victor Oladipo (18 points) and Doug McDermott (13 points) also reached double figures for the Thunder.

Nuggets 126, Cavaliers 113

In Denver, Wilson Chandler scored 18 points in his return from a pulled groin and provided stellar defense on LeBron James in Denver's victory over Cleveland.

The Nuggets bounced back from consecutive heartbreaking last-second losses to Houston with a signature win that increased their lead to 1 1/2 games over idle Portland in the race for the final playoff spot in the West.

Will Barton scored 20 points, Kenneth Faried added 17 and Jamal Murray had 15 off the bench for Denver, which also got 21 points from Gary Harris and 16 from Nikola Jokic.

Kyrie Irving led the Cavs with 33 points but James had just 18 and the two stars sat out much of the fourth quarter with Cleveland trailing by double digits.

Celtics 109, Pacers 100

In Boston, Isaiah Thomas scored 25 points, Avery Bradley had 18 with eight rebounds and Boston beat Indiana night for its fifth win in six games.

Al Horford added 15 points with eight boards and eight assists, and Jae Crowder also scored 15 points for Boston, which won for the 12th time in 13 home games.

Paul George led the Pacers with 37 points and Jeff Teague had 25. Indiana has alternated by winning and losing in its last 15 games.

Bulls 117, Pistons 95

In Chicago, Nikola Mirotic scored a season-high 28 points, and Chicago beat Detroit.

Mirotic shot 12 of 15 and made 4 of 6 3-point attempts to lead Chicago to an easy win after dropping eight of 10.

Jimmy Butler added 16 points and 12 assists. Joffrey Lauvergne filled in for suspended center Robin Lopez and outplayed Andre Drummond with 17 points and seven rebounds. Rookie Paul Zipser added a career-high 15 points.

Hornets 109, Magic 102

In Orlando, Kemba Walker scored 22 points and Marco Belinelli came off the bench to add 20 and Charlotte pulled off a fourth-quarter comeback to defeat Orlando.

Orlando entered the fourth quarter with a five-point lead but Frank Kaminsky came off the bench to score 13 of his 18 points and Walker added eight points to help the Hornets outscore the Magic 32-20 in the final quarter. Cody Zeller also had 15 points and Nicolas Batum added 10.

Terrence Ross led five Magic in double figures with 19 points while Nikola Vucevic had 14 points and 12 rebounds.

Wizards 104, Hawks 100

In Washington, Bradley Beal scored 28 points and John Wall added all 22 of his in the second half to help Washington over Atlanta.

Wall also had 10 assists on a night he shot just 6 of 21 from the floor, including two assists to Beal during a late 14-2 run that helped Washington ensure victory after Atlanta had led by as many as 12 early.

Ian Mahinmi had 10 rebounds off the bench as the Wizards used a 55-44 edge on the glass to overcome 40 percent shooting.

Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 29 points and Dennis Schroder had 18 to lead the Hawks, who fell to their fifth consecutive defeat.

NFL looking to speed up games via officiating and breaks

NEW YORK (AP)—For all those NFL fans longing for more action, fewer interruptions and a better flow to games, Commissioner Roger Goodell is with you.

The NFL is making plans to speed up the pace of games, including changing how video replays are handled and using a time clock for extra points. The league also is discussing with the TV networks how to make commercial breaks less intrusive.

"I watch a lot of football as a fan and as commissioner," Goodell told The Associated Press on Wednesday after sending a letter to fans outlining the proposals. "I see when I am watching on TV or at a stadium that there are opportunities to make the game more compelling from a fan standpoint."

For officiating replays, the referee no longer would go under a hood to watch a play. Instead, a tablet would be brought to him on the field and he would consult with league headquarters in New York. The final call would be made in New York.

Support by 75 percent of the 32 team owners would be needed at next week's annual meetings for passage of the proposals.

In addition to a time clock for PATs when there is no TV break, the league is considering instituting a play clock after a touchdown.

Also, to improve the flow of games on the field and for television audiences, commercial breaks during the quarters would be reduced from 21 per game to 16 (four per period), although each would last 30 seconds longer. There also is a break at the end of the first quarter and another at the end of the third.

Teams also would not be allowed to make a challenge late in a commercial break, meaning no more scenes of a referee telling the TV audience when it returns that a video review will now take place—and then the network goes to another commercial. If a team decides to challenge a call at that time, the review would be done during the commercials.

The most significant change might be centralizing officiating decisions on replays, a system that has worked well for the NHL. NFL officiating director Dean Blandino and his New York staff have been involved in the process for years, but the referee has always been the final arbiter on such calls.

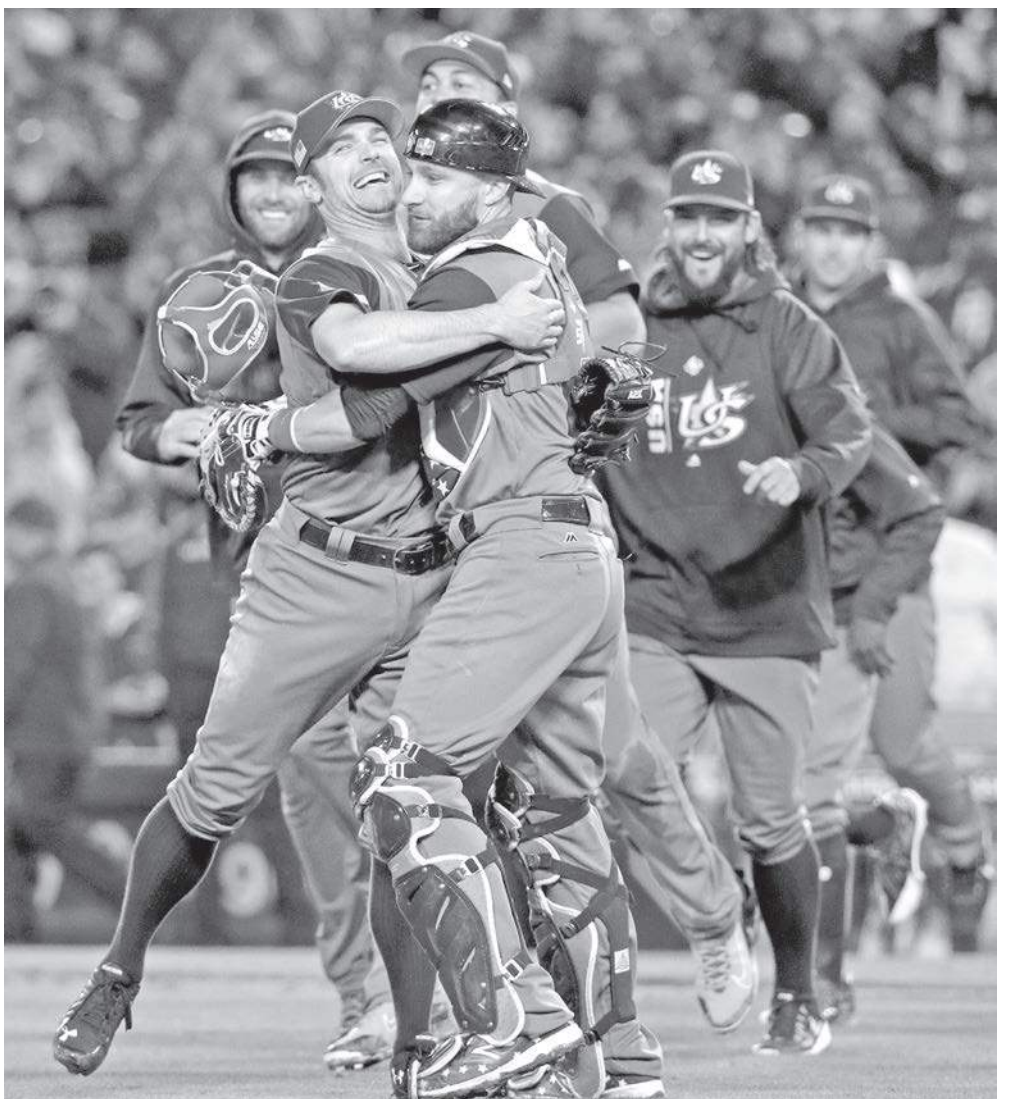
"We did centralized replay with our office involved for two seasons," Goodell said, "and this is one step further where we're going to allow the New York office to make the final determination. We think this is very smart. We still provide for the referee's input, but instead of going under the hood, he'll use the tablet to see the play, and speak to Dean and have their voice. We want the referee involved when we look at replays."

Other proposals, all with the pace of games in mind, would ensure that the clock is restarted at the proper time after a ball carrier goes out of bounds, and would standardize the length of halftimes. Regular-season halftimes are supposed to last 12 minutes, but referees have used their discretion in that area.

A 5-yard delay-of-game penalty would ensue for the offending team.

The number of commercial breaks would be reduced to four per quarter, and they would each last 2 minutes, 20 seconds rather than the previous 1:50. Goodell doesn't see those extra 30 seconds as intrusive, something league surveys back up. Those studies showed fans preferred fewer commercial interruptions over the course of a game.

US routs Puerto Rico to win WBC title



AP

The U.S. team celebrates an 8-0 win over Puerto Rico in the finals of the World Baseball Classic in Los Angeles, Wednesday, March 22, 2017.

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Marcus Stroman tossed six hitless innings, Ian Kinsler slugged a two-run homer and the United States routed Puerto Rico 8-0 on Wednesday night to win its first World Baseball Classic in four tries.

Stroman dominated the tournament's highest-scoring team. Puerto Rico lost for the first time in eight games after outscoring the opposition 55-26. The U.S. territory finished runner-up for the second time, having lost to the Dominican Republic in the 2013 final.

Stroman, who was named the tournament's MVP, avenged his shakiness in the Americans' 6-5 loss to Puerto Rico during pool play. The right-hander from the Toronto Blue Jays retired the side on three grounders to open the game. In all, he gave up one hit, struck out three and walked one on 73 pitches.

He allowed just three balls past the infield until Angel Pagan's double in the left-field corner leading off the seventh, when Stroman departed to a standing ovation, having staked the Americans to a 7-0 lead.

Stroman walked Carlos Beltran leading off the second, but the defense helped him out. Yadier Molina hit the ball to shortstop Brandon Crawford, who started a double play before Stroman struck out Javier Baez to end the inning.

The U.S. pounded out 13 hits and finished with a 6-2 record while making the final for the first time in front of 51,565 at Dodger Stadium.

Kinsler homered off an 0-1 pitch from Seth Lugo into left-center field in the third, scoring Jonathan Lucroy, who singled leading off.

Lugo of the New York Mets allowed four runs and five hits, struck out seven and walked four in four innings. The right-hander won his first two starts of the tournament, including in the second round against Stroman and the U.S.

In that game, Stroman gave up six consecutive singles in a four-run first inning and took the loss against Puerto Rico last Friday in San Diego.

The Americans made it 4-0 in the fifth on RBI singles by Christian Yelich and Andrew McCutchen.

Fans wore flags of both countries as capes and decorated their faces in team colors. Puerto Rico boosters pounded cowbells, tooted horns and blew whistles early on before their team fell behind 4-0.

Fans were on their feet chanting "U-S-A" when the Americans loaded the bases in the seventh with two outs. They were rewarded with Crawford's two-run single that chased J.C. Romero, extending the lead to 6-0.

The U.S. tacked on another run on Giancarlo Stanton's RBI single off Hiram Burgos past diving shortstop Francisco Lindor.

Burgos' wild pitch moved runners to second and third before he walked Lucroy to load the bases a second time. Kinsler flied out to end the inning.

The Americans led 8-0 in the eighth on McCutchen's RBI single with two outs.

The U.S. defeated two-time champion Japan, while Puerto Rico beat the Netherlands to reach the final.

The three games at Dodger Stadium drew 109,892.

Rough, emotional day for top seeds at Match Play

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)— Defending champion Jason Day lasted only six holes at the Dell Technologies Match Play until a heavy heart forced an early departure.

Rory McIlroy and Jordan Spieth might not be far behind.

The opening round of golf's most unpredictable tournament took a stunning turn Wednesday when the third-seeded Day abruptly conceded his match to Pat Perez, then wiped away tears as he revealed his mother has lung cancer. Day withdrew to be with her in Ohio for surgery on Friday.

"It's been a very, very hard time for me to even be thinking about playing golf," Day said. "And I know my mom says not to let it get to me, but it really has. So I just need some time away with her to make sure that everything goes well because this has been very, very tough for me. So I'm going to do my best and try and be there the best I can for her because she is the reason that I'm playing golf today."

Dustin Johnson had no trouble in his debut as the No. 1 seed. He had five birdies in his opening eight holes at Austin Country Club and there wasn't much Webb Simpson could do, but try to extend the match as long as he could. It lasted 15 holes in a 5-and-3 victory.

"Got a long way to go, but getting the first match in the books with a win is definitely a head start," said Johnson, who is trying to win his third straight tournament.

McIlroy (No. 2) and Spieth (No. 5) face critical matches the rest of the way.

McIlroy, the 2015 champion and a semifinalist last year, appeared to seize control against Soren Kjeldsen when he won three straight holes to take the lead, including a 410-yard drive on the par-5 12th hole and another drive over the water to the edge of the green on the 317-yard 13th hole into the wind.

Kjeldsen, crisp as ever with his short irons, ran off four straight birdies to end the match. He took a 1-up lead with a wedge in tight on the par-5 16th, and then his pitching wedge that landed inches from the cup and settled 2 feet away for a birdie on the 17th to end it. Kjeldsen was 6 under on the round.

It was the first time McIlroy had lost his opening match since 2013 when Match Play was single elimination.

"If I had played anyone else, I might have won," McIlroy said. "Overall, I can't be too disappointed. But at the same time, when standing on the 14th tee just having won three holes in a row, I thought I had him going into a tough stretch of the golf course. But he put up three birdies in a row, and you can't do any-

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Korean triathletes extol Ironman 70. 3 Saipan

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nineteen athletes and four staff members of Korean sports community No Excuses depart Incheon Airport last March 10 for the inaugural Ironman 70.3 Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A Korean athlete pedals past Kensington Hotel during the inaugural Ironman 70.3 Saipan held last March 11.

Nineteen triathletes from Korea have extolled their experience in The Marians earlier this month for the inaugural IRONMAN 70.3 Saipan.

From March 10-13, the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) hosted the athletes in cooperation with one of the biggest on/offline sports communities in Korea, No Excuses, which also sent four staff members on the tour. The promotion was to raise awareness of Ironman 70.3 in Saipan and position The Marianas as a premier triathlon destination. The promotion included a tour of Saipan along with participation in the Ironman 70.3 Saipan event.

Overall, 28 athletes from Korea joined the race, and Kwang Hoon Lee finished first overall. Among the No Excuses participants, Kyungtae Park placed second and Sungjin Cho placed third in the 25-29 men's category. Yaelim Choi also placed third in the women's 25-29 category. In addition, in the relay race, Suzy Choi (swimming), Beom Kim (cycling), and Jaeyoon Lee (running) finished third.

During their visit, the participants went snorkeling and filmed short video clips at Managaha. The team toured scenic and historic sites including Suicide Cliff, Banzai Cliff and Bird Island, as well as paid a visit to the Korean Peace Memorial where they observed a moment of silence for Koreans who lost their lives during World War II in The Marianas. After the tour, the participants went on a shopping and gourmet tour in the main tourist district of Garapan.

"This was the first time a major Korean triathlon group like No Excuses visited The Marianas. Their participation in the inaugural Ironman 70.3 Saipan is wonderful," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "With No Excuses' passion for triathlons and their love of The Marianas' beautiful nature and organized triathlon courses, they were able to achieve great results. We will continue promoting more diverse marketing strategies to attract more Koreans to The Marianas to experience various sports related programs and events throughout the year."

The participating No Excuses athletes are posting their experiences on various SNS channels, including No Excuses' official blog and their personal Instagram accounts.

The tour was also supported by Jin Air and Aqua Resort Club. ***(MVA)***

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Verdes GC.

Team COP, which also has Nick Sablan, Juan SN Lizama, Alex Tudela, Frank Castro, Steve Balakrishna, Jung Eun Teack, Rick Kautz, James Nelson, and Norman Tenorio as members, collected 442 points in the two-round tournament to place second behind Fil-Am Hawaii (481) and beat Socal Redhawk (436) and 31 other squads from Australia, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Guam, Canada, and different U.S. states.

"We've been competing in the PAL Interclub for the last nine years and this is our best finish so far," said Guerrero, adding that Team COP made in to the Top 10 in the past contests.

"It was a tough tournament because the courses were very challenging, especially the Rancho Palos Verdes because of its slopes and hilly greens. The Apo course is a bit flatter, but there are many tricky holes," Guerrero said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday during the team's victory celebration at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

The Senior International division implemented a 4-man play, 3 count format, according to Guerrero, with Team COP players divided into C and D Flights. The Team COP captain gave extra credit to Tudela and Sablan for stepping up and helping their squad place second in the competition.

"They played very well on both days," Guerrero said.

Each player was given points based on how they performed in the two courses. Tudela shot an 88 and 85 at the Rancho Palos and Apo, respectively, while Sablan had the best showing in the two-day contest with his 88 and 83.

Meanwhile, Guerrero said the team will still compete in the same event next year, while they will try to help other players (men's division) on Saipan form a squad to see action in the PAL Interclub.

"We will continue to play and challenge each other here so we can keep ourselves fit and ready for next year's tournament. TEAM COP members play every Sunday and we also join other local tournaments and some competitions in Guam," the team skipper said.

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Group D came at the hands of Chinese-Taipei's Joanna Jessie Garland, 2-6, 2-6, last Tuesday.

The 15-year-old Lee's second singles victory, on the other hand, saved Pacific Oceania from another shutdown loss against India. The host' Salsa Parag Aher took the other singles match after beating Tahiti's Naia Guitton, 6-1, 6-1, and India went on to enter the win column in pool play after the former and Humera downed Lee and Guitton in their deciding doubles duel, 6-4, 6-0.

With the loss to India and its 0-3 record in Pool D, Pacific Oceania missed the playoff round and dropped to the bracket where teams will play for the No. 9 to 16 rankings. India also did not make the cut, while the unbeaten Chinese-Taipei and Uzbekistan joined Pool A Top 2 finishers Japan and China, Pool B's Thailand and New Zealand, and Pool C's Australia and Hong Kong in the quarterfinals.

Meanwhile, Tan moved into the second round of the doubles event in the 1st KL ITF International Junior Championship 2017 being held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The CNMI player teamed up with Malaysia's Nor Aida Amir and they topped the latter's compatriots Chloe Chong Zhi Jing and Hannah Seen Ean Yip, 6-4, 6-2. Though they swept their opponents, it was not an easy win for Tan and Amir as the pair was once down at 0-3.

"I'm very happy that I won today (Wednesday) in doubles even though I haven't been playing the past two weeks because of finals at school. We were down 0-3 in the first set and 1-4, but had perseverance and came through in the first set. With this win, I have earned more confidence and became determined to play better and improve my game," Tan said in a message sent to *Saipan Tribune* last Wednesday night.

The Commonwealth player and her Malaysian teammate were scheduled to challenge the No. 6 seed duo of Janice Ten of Indonesia and Ashley Kei Yim of Singapore in Round 2 yesterday. An upset over their ranked foes would move Tan and Amir into the quarterfinals where they will meet either the No. 1 seed Sara Nayar of Malaysia and Charmaine Seah of Singapore or the Japanese tandem of Momoko Ishizaka and Mitsuki Terao.

The on-going tournament in Malaysia is a Grade 5 event under the ITF Juniors Circuit and awards as much as 30 points in the singles and 20 in the doubles. The-15-year-old Tan currently has 5 ranking points in doubles and is ranked at No. 2, 235 in the world.

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Down by four, Joeten was so eager to retaliate, but Alex Lauron missed a turnaround shot, while Gaspar canned a long jumper near where Joseph drilled his triple to up their lead to 6, 69-63, 1:14 remaining in the game. Another Joeten hurried shot and miss returned possession to McDonald's and the former was forced to give up a foul to stop the clock. Michael took the free throw shots and made both, while he had a split in his next trip to the foul line after Lauron made a field goal for Joeten, while Gaspar went 2-for-2 in the ensuing play to peg the final score.

All six scorers for McDonald's hit double figures in their upset win over Joeten. Gil Gapor tallied 14 points, while Joseph and Mclain chipped in 13, and Gaspar and Michael added 11. Sonn Macaranas finished with 12 before leaving the court in the last four minutes and change of the game due to a minor injury.

Lauron paced Joeten with his 20 points, while Devero had 12, but muffed a lot of easy shots. Quan also recorded double figures with 10, but could not hit baskets in streaks. Joeten played without Kelvin Fitial, who is in Guam to compete in PXC 56.

Meanwhile, Best Deal/RNV took the first seat in the semifinals after routing Mobil/COAG, 94-60.

A 31-10 scoring surge allowed Best Deal/RNV to set up the easy win and eliminate the host. Before its explosion in the pivotal second canto, Best Deal/RNV was behind Mobil/COAG at the end of the first period, 14-17.

Ronald Rueda anchored Best Deal/RNV's second-canto assault after firing 12 points, while Joseph Corong made all his 8 markers in that quarter to lift their team to a 45-27 halftime advantage. Best Deal/RNV never looked back from thereon, as Mobil/COAG failed to neutralize Rueda, who finished with a game-high 34 points.

Next up for Rueda and the streaking Best Deal/RNV, which won its last six games, will be the winner in the Mariana Resort vs Star Water match tonight at 8pm. Also scheduled for today is the TanHoldings-Commonwealth Utilities tiff at 6:30pm with the victor facing the upset-minded McDonald's in the Final Four.

First Game

Best Deal/RNV 94— R. Rueda 34, Mortos 16, Odicta 14, Corong 8, J. Rueda 6, Lacson 4, Jumaquio 3, Baul 2.

Mobil/COAG 60 — Torres 15, Almario 12, Manzano 8, Pelisamen 8, Agustin 6, Alvez 6.

Scoring by quarters: 14-17, 45-27, 56-46, 94-60.

Second Game

McDonald's 74 — Gapor 14, J. Achas 13, Mc. Achas 13, Macaranas 12, Gaspar 11, Mi. Achas 11.

Joeten 65 — Lauron 20, Devero 12, Quan 10, Chariton 8, Sambile 4, Tobias 2, Dionisio 2, Rogolifoi 1.

Scoring by quarters: 22-22, 43-36, 61-50, 74-65.

2017 XTERRA Saipan Awards Ceremony

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

The CNMI's Charlie Sendin, center, joins Michael Orin, right, and Japan's Keisuke Hirano at the podium of the 35-39 age division during the awards ceremony for the 2017 XTERRA Saipan last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Guam's Roger James Sardea, second left, and Japan's Yoshiki Hiraku pose with their first and second place medals in the 45 to 49 age group.

Alexander Cenzon, center, from Baguio City, Philippines, has his photo taken with race organizers Ricky Castro and Jay Diyco.

Ayano Braxton, center, is joined by race organizers Ricky Castro, left, and Jay Diyco during the medal presentation.

From left, Wynn Brillo, Jinju Thompson, pose with their medals after ruling the mixed relay event with Rintaro Miyawaki, not in photo, while runners-up Emily Northrop, Ronald Villafria, and Ferdinand Ramos join them in the podium. Noe Valdissimo, right, and his teamates Vince Seman and Nicole Harkness finished third.

From left, Taiga Sato,Von Adrian Libayan, and Enfeng Wang are the Top 3 finishers in the 15 to 19 age group.

XTERRA Sprint men's division winners, from left, Haonan Wang, Jacob Winegardner, Leo Wania, Charles Cepeda, and Boboy Aguilar.

Saipan's Tomomi Sato, center, poses with race organizers Ricky Castro, left, and Jay Diyco.

The participants of the 2017 XTERRA Saipan gather for a group photo.

Westbrook posts 35th triple-double, Thunder roll past 76ers

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US routs Puerto Rico to win WBC title

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McDonald's upsets Joeten, moves into semis

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
McDonald's Mclain Achas, center, is hemmed in by Joeten's Alex Lauron, right, and Sid Quan, left, during the fourth quarter of their playoff game in the JEM/Mobil caging last Wednesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

McDonald's continued its giant killing, stunning Joeten, 74-65, in their playoff game in the JEM Company Ltd./ Mobil Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Wednesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

McDonald's, which was seeded No. 12 in the playoffs and defeated the No.5 Top Development, Inc. in the first round, 85-75, survived the fourth-quarter rally of the fourth-ranked Joeten to take the 9-point win and advance to the semifinals.

Joeten entered the final canto behind by double-digits, 50-61, and McDonald extended the lead to 12, 62-50 off a split free throw from Mclain Achas in the opening two minutes of the fourth. Joeten then unloaded a 13-2 bomb to threaten McDonald's, 63-64, with still 2:38 left on the clock.

Joeten could have tied the game after Ivan Devero spearheaded a 2-on-1 fastbreak play, however, he muffed the point-blanked shot. Devero got the offensive rebound and went for a putback, missed it anew, but drew a foul on Sherwin Gaspar. The Joeten wingman split his charities, making the second one to cut the deficit to a hair.

Devero then had a chance to put Joeten on top after Sid Quan picked Gaspar's pocket on the other end. However, Devero faltered on his acrobatic shot, while Joseph Achas hit the dagger, canning a triple from the right baseline. Before his crucial trey that gave McDonald's more breathing room, 67-63, Joseph missed three attempts from downtown in the fourth quarter.

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Carol, Tania triumph in off-island tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Tania Tan and Carol Lee earned victories in their respective tournaments outside Saipan last Wednesday.

Lee gained her second win in the 2017 Junior Fed Cup Asia Oceania Qualifying Zone after prevailing against India's Shaik Humera in the Singles 1, 6-1, 6-2, at the R.K Khanna Tennis Stadium in New Delhia, India. Earlier this week in their match versus Uzbekistan, Lee also swept her Singles 1 tiff against Yasmina Karimjanova, 6-2, 6-1, while the CNMI's lone loss in the singles in the pool play of

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tania Tan poses for a photo after her match in the 1st KL ITF International Junior Championship 2017 last Wednesday in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Team COP makes podium in PH golf tournament

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Team Coral Ocean Point made it to the podium of the 70th Philippine Airlines Interclub Golf Tournament held late last month in Davao, Philippines.

Philippine Airlines PAL Interclub Golf Tournament

The Juan Pan Guerrero-captained Team COP competed in the Senior International class of one of the biggest golf tournaments in the Philippines and finished second among the 34 teams (in their division) that joined the Feb. 22 to 25 event held at the Apo Golf and Country Club and the Rancho Palos

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Members of TEAM COP pose with their medals and trophy during their victory celebration at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan yesterday.